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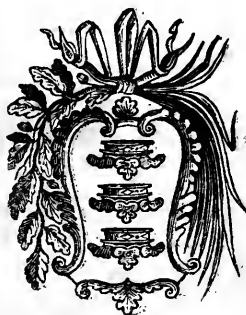
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THE
Hull Portfolio;
OR
MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF
JAMES ACLAND
ITS PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

*"BONIS NOCET QUISQUIS PEPERCERIT MALIS."—Cicero.
He injures the good who spares the bad.*



VOLUME THE FIRST,

Commencing Aug. 20th, and terminating. Dec 31st, 1831.

JAMES ACLAND,
PRINTER AND PUBLISHER,
Queen-Street,
HULL.

THE NATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHIVES

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TO
Those unfaithful
 STEWARDS AND SERVANTS
 OF THE
BURGESSES
 OF
Kingston-upon-Hull

This First Volume
Of a Publication which faithfully records
THEIR VICES & THEIR FOLLIES

IS
DEDICATED

(Without their permission)

In the assurance of their Corporate insignificance, and in the hope of a speedy
 consummation of the reasonable expectations

OF
 ALL CLASSES
 OF THE
PEOPLE OF HULL,

To wit:—

The downfall of
CORPORATE DESPOTS,

The termination of
MAGISTERIAL MISRULE,

And the just punishment

OF
The poor man's oppressors—

BY,

Its Author,

AND

Their enemy,

JAMES ACLAND.

THE
Hull Portfolio;
OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF AN EDITOR.

—❦❦❦—
“*Bonis nocet quisquis pepercerit malis.*”—CICERO.
HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING, BY JOSEPH NOBLE,
(*opposite the High Church*) MARKET-PLACE, HULL.

Vol. 1.—No. 1. — SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 1831.

Twopence

TO THE PUBLIC OF HULL.

You are perhaps curious to learn why this publication has been entered upon; and, as I esteem such feeling, on the present occasion, not less laudable than natural, I shall endeavour briefly to gratify you.

There is an old adage which informs us that “what is every body’s business is nobody’s business”—and as they are few indeed who will venture to question the accuracy of this legacy from the wise ones of by-gone generations—and as they are yet fewer, who will contend that things which concern every body should interest nobody, it will follow, that when somebody ventures to act in the name and for the benefit of everybody, that individual, so long as he may conduct such agency with impartiality, integrity, ability, courage and zeal, will command the approbation and support of at least the majority of those constituting the society of which he is a member.

On these conditions I claim your encouragement; and, if I violate not my part of the contract, shall be entitled to expect that you will discharge your duty to yourselves and your families, by aiding and abetting me, as your self-elected, but, as I hope to find myself, your approved advocate and spokesman.

By the existing laws against the diffusion of cheap knowledge, I am precluded from giving you news; you have, however, three newspapers—such as they are—and that department I shall leave to their enjoyment. But the gentlemen who have the conduct of the Hull newspapers, have considerably avoided a subject which will constitute the back and edge of my

PORTFOLIO; and, for such courtesy, I at least am indebted to them. The subject which they have thus thrown aside, as it were for my picking up, is neither more nor less than “The Rights and Interests of the People and Town of Hull.” And surely such a topic—branching as it does into so many divisional parts—each part being of great and immediate importance to you—surely such a topic demands an advocate.

It is impossible that, living as you do under the rule of a chartered Corporation, there should not be multitudinous grievances which require to be redressed, and an infinite variety of oppression and roguery, demanding exposure on the one hand, and resistance on the other. Corporate bodies are one of the greatest evils of the long-existing system of monopoly and misrule: and it will generally be found that those bodies which have existed for the most extended period of time, are the most prejudicial to the interests of the community, the most ricketty in their constitution, and the most despotic in their administration—upon the admitted experience that cowards are generally bullies and usurpers tyrants.

As a courageous bearing is the best counteraction to the swaggering insolence of the coward, and a determined resistance the only antidote to tyranny—so, it is intended by me, to oppose a fearless determination and uncompromising enmity to all wrong—Corporate or otherwise—as well of the governors as of the governed—in the town and county of Hull, and its vicinity.

My motto reminds you, in the language of the Roman orator, that to spare the bad is to injure the good; and

is it not so? Which of you, having a team of horses, would hesitate to urge and goad the sluggish brute, if but in justice to his more willing associate in labor? A contrary course were sheer injustice. And, as with this quadruped, so with the biped brute. If the perpetrator of iniquity be allowed to pass himself off as a worthy member of society, virtue must be at a discount, and evil deeds above the par of morality—to the encouragement of the vicious, and as surely to the prejudice of the estimable—the virtuous—the good.

“But,” it may be asked, “are there not laws?”—and “are not those laws sufficient for every purpose proposed to be attained by the present publication?” I reply to the first question, that there are laws, but that those laws are made by and for the rich—and not for the poor; expensive laws, which operate most unjustly, resembling those quack medicines of which it may truly be said, that the remedy is worse than the disease. With regard to the second enquiry, I would observe, that, if all the laws were *just*, and the administration of those laws *cheap*, the assumption that this publication is needless, would, in a measure, be justified. But they who know how, where, and by whom, these laws are concocted—they who have felt their gross partiality—they who have suffered even to ruin (as many have) in their endeavour to obtain legal remedies for illegality and persecution—and that countless multitude by whom wrong has been submitted to, and suffering endured, by reason of the unattainable nature of legal redress—*these* know, and among them none better than myself, that a dauntless exposure and costless castigation of the evil doer, is infinitely preferable to the endless expence of a Quixotic endeavour to obtain legal remedies for the thousands of injuries daily perpetrated by the powerful against the weak—by the rich against the poor—by the upstart against the honest and unassuming.

Besides, there are an incredible number of cases, in which an unenviable notoriety is a more effectual punishment than the pecuniary commutation and compromise, in which a legal appeal too frequently results. And if this be true, so also is the position that the fear of publicity and exposure will often operate in

detererring from crime more effectually than the possible resort of the party injured to the very questionable remedy of the law's expence and the law's delay.

Nor do I write theoretically, having all the advantage of experience in these matters, and knowing that the result which I predicate as probable in Hull, has been elsewhere verified, and through my instrumentality.

Be this, however, as it may, I shall content myself with calling upon you to judge of the utility of my **PORTFOLIO** from its contents—and if it contain not matters of information which may be serviceable to you—if it offer not the means of usefulness, which shall be sufficient justification for my intrusion—if it protect not the good by the castigation of the bad—if it tend not to the security of honest men by the exposure of rogues—and to the support of right by its condemnation of wrong—you will withdraw from me the encouragement which, otherwise, I hope and have a right to expect.

THE EDITOR.

—oo—

TO MR. GEORGE SCHONSWAR, MERCHANT.

No. 1.

SIR,—You are one of the two Representatives of the Burgesses of Hull, in the Commons' House of Parliament; how is it, then, that you are not *in* the Commons' House of Parliament at this eventful crisis of your country's fate?

You were elected that you might represent the people of Hull in Parliament. You cannot do so when at a distance of a hundred and seventy miles from the scene of its deliberations.

Until recently you were the first favourite of your constituents: and your career this sessions, has been such as to win for you the golden opinions of all good men; but—ah! that *but*!

You were sent to Parliament on a specific mission—your instructions were concise—the object of your election simply that of giving support in the name of the people of Hull, to the *Reform Bill*, proposed by his Majesty's Ministers. Events have subsequently occurred, which deprive you of the means of fulfilling your contract. In the name of common sense and common justice then, let such contract be cancelled—as it concerns you—and in order that the other party to this contract may make a more satisfactory arrangement elsewhere.

These, Sir, are not times for mealy-mouthed remonstrance. We live at a period when men have found it necessary to speak as they mean. Accumulated wrongs have at length rendered retribution imperative, and the electors of Great Britain have deputed their representatives to declare that they can no longer submit to the tyranny of a Tory oligarchy. You have acquitted yourself faithfully in the House of Commons—but if you now hesitate in affording the people of Hull an opportunity of being fully represented in Parliament, you may do more mischief than all your after-regrets can excuse or palliate. Every division on the Reform Bill, in which you vote not in its support, you aid the Aristocratic faction. Your absence operates prejudicially on those whose representative you were elected—but whom you do not now represent. Your course then is plainly before you; accept the Chiltern Hundreds—vacate the seat you fill not—give the people of Hull a member in the place of him you have withdrawn from them.

A wise man, or one of ordinary prudence and foresight, would, in your case, anticipate the probable demand of his constituents. You have no right to disfranchise your townsmen; and, as I cannot suppose you ignorant of your duty, I am under the necessity of assuming that, in perpetrating this injustice towards those who have confided so important a trust to your care and keeping, you have either been actuated by an unworthy motive, or controlled by improper, sinister, and treacherous influence.

It is painful, Sir, to be compelled to unfavourable conclusions in regard to the conduct and character of individuals occupying a station and holding a rank in society which should be the guarantee of unimpeachable integrity and untainted honor. But it is better to endure pain than to sanction wrong; and if those from whom much might reasonably have been expected—in whom the confidence of deceived thousands has been reposed—whose character and name have operated but as lures to disappointment—if these, in their blindness and self-will have pleased to descend from the elevation to which they had previously raised themselves in public estimation, I know not on what ground they can claim the indulgence of others—especially as that indulgence would operate prejudicially to such as are unfortunate only in having been deceived, and censurable only in their credulity. Whilst, therefore, I would scorn to prejudice, you, Sir, by misrepresentation or by exaggerated statements, I feel bound fearlessly to discharge my duty by the expression of my opinion that you are no longer entitled to that pre-eminent respect from your fellow-townsmen, which your past conduct exacted and their past ignorance conceded.

As a public character, you abuse the faith reposed in you by your constituents, in retaining the office of

trust to which they elected you, for which you are not now legally qualified, and the duties of which you are no longer able to discharge. One might reasonably have expected, that an individual of rightly constituted mind, would immediately and unhesitatingly have relinquished the seat under such circumstances vacated. But it seems, Sir, that you are of a different opinion. Report informs me that you retain your membership, under the sanction of a certain few of your leading supporters, who are said to have decided that it is better Hull should be *minus* one of its representatives, than that you should render justice to your constituents, by your acceptance of the Chiltern Hundreds. Permit me, however, to entertain the opinion, and, I must add, the hope, that the independent Burgesses of Hull will not quiescently submit to such arrangement of the Whig tacticians. If, Sir, you imagine that you were elected to a seat in Parliament by the mere Whigs of this borough, you grossly deceive yourself. The people care for neither of the rival factions of political traders, beyond their present utility to the state in effecting an improvement in the system of representation and Government, and in conducing to a redaction of the intolerable burthen of taxation by which we are afflicted. No; you were sent to the House of Commons by the real Reformers of Hull—a component part of that great national body who support the present Administration, not because it calls itself Whig, but because it professes to be reformist, and has proposed and advocated that great healing measure of reform, without which this country would, ere this, have been convulsed by the political cholera—revolution. If, Sir, you were to avow yourself a Tory, think you such circumstance would induce your townsmen to disapprove your uniform support of the Reform Bill so long as you attended to your Parliamentary duties? Pshaw! you cannot be so void of sense as to believe all who approve a Whig measure in the abstract, to be Whigs, and if you be not mentally blind, you must know, first, that your constituents are real Reformers, and sent you to the House of Commons in that character; and, secondly, that as real Reformers, they will not be content that you emasculate their electoral influence, when the Reform Bill, and its expected collateral measures need their most efficient and energetic support.

As you may possibly be curious to possess my definition of the distinctive line between the Whig Reformers and the real Reformers, I shall simply state it. I conceive that they only can properly be called Whigs, who, considering the Whig Reform Bill perfect in itself and all-sufficient for the removal of the many evils and the redress of the many grievances by which our country is depressed and its inhabitants abused—do so consider it, because; and for the inconsequent and factitious reason, that the introduction of such bill is a

Whig measure On the other hand, the real Reformers, believing the Temple of National Justice to stand in an elevated position, believe also that the present Reform Bill is the first, and only the first, of the several steps which must be ascended ere its sacred portal can be attained. The Tories have long maintained a *cordon militaire* around this pedestal; the Whigs affect a desire to remove such obstacle, contenting themselves with the erection of an impervious balustrade on the outer edge of the second step; but the real Reformers will be satisfied with nothing short of a speedily progressive ascent to the abode of Truth and sanctuary of justice.

That you have many well wishers among those with whom you have long been in habits of association and intimacy, I can very readily understand, because you are admitted on all hands to be gifted with considerable talent and companionable manners. Your pecuniary embarrassments have, therefore, excited an emotion of pity in the breasts of thousands. I too, can feel for you, but you must allow me to bestow my pity on those who better deserve it—the many paupers whom national taxation has deprived of their beds, or those whose credulity has been played upon by others, and to whom ruin and beggary may be the pitiable consequences.

Were I to credit the *Stamford News*, I should anticipate the Gazette, and believe you a bankrupt; but it is sufficient to the enforcement of every claim I have made upon your political propriety, that you are avowedly unable to meet your engagements, and that the amount of your liabilities is very considerable.—May I Sir, on behalf of your numerous creditors, enquire whether any of your uninsured argosies have been lost by shipwreck or otherwise?—if your banker has failed?—or whether any of your foreign agents have emigrated to the United States? These questions naturally present themselves to the minds of hundreds, and should be answered; for if your reply to each enquiry be, as I believe it must be, answered in the negative, the inference is self-evident—that you *ought not* to be indebted beyond your means of liquidation.

You may, perhaps, accuse me, Sir, of an unworthy disposition to prejudice and pre-condemn you. You would, however, assuredly wrong me by such accusation. I write with a knowledge of more—much more, than I can summon the resolution, at this early stage of our correspondence, to divulge, and it is with sincere regret I find myself compelled to justify myself to my readers by detailing the following case of unmerited hardship and of unfeeling deprivation:—

There resides at No. 7, Carr-lane, in this town, a poor woman, who maintains herself and three children on the paltry profits of sand, salt, and such merchandise of a fourth-rate shopkeeper. This woman is a widow—her children fatherless. Among other re-

sources for their support, she vends the flour of the Anti-mill association to the shareholders, deriving the remuneration for her trouble from the pitiful agency of one halfpenny per stone. Of course she cannot afford to give credit for the article from which she derives so very small an advantage—and I observe she has a board suspended against the wall of her little shop, to the effect that not more than a week's credit can be given for the Anti-mill flour.

With this widow, you, Merchant Schonswar, you, Member of Parliament for Hull, have had some dealings, Whence your condescension? Did it originate in your humanity? Am I to test your Christian feeling by this your generous support of the widow and her orphans? Was it for this you refused the honour and profit of your custom to the wealthy traders in flour and bread, that your patronage might shed its dew upon the frugal board of those who had none to help them? Oh, no!

You have run into this poor woman's debt to the amount of FIVE POUNDS, SIXTEEN SHILLINGS, AND EIGHT PENCE, for about *fifty stones of flour*—the which sale, were the cash realized by the agent, would give her fifty halfpence, or two shillings and a penny, for her trouble, her accommodation, and her risk!!!

You now tell her that you can't pay her, and that she must fare like the rest! What! are all your creditors widows? Have they all three orphans to support? Are they all content with a profit of 2s. 1d. on £5 16s, 8d?

Sir, you ought to have felt it a disgrace to take credit of this poor widow—but, having so disgraced yourself, you ought to have indulged in fewer luxuries for the past month, so that she might not have felt the weight of your unprincipled preference. A man of only ordinary honesty would, somehow or other, have paid this debt. You have not. A needy man, if he had so wronged this poor woman of only a tithe of you bill, would have been called a scamp—a swindler—a robber of the poor: but *you* are a Merchant—a Member of the Imperial Parliament, and of an order, many of the graduates of which conceive themselves privileged to do as you have done, without rendering themselves liable to the impertinence of truth—and to the reprehension and condemnation of those who have a heart to feel for the helpless, and a pen to wield in protection of the widow and the orphan.

THE EDITOR.

—oo—

TO THE BREAD-EATERS OF HULL.

NOTHING can be of higher importance to the consumers of the first necessary of existence, than the purity of its ingredients. The "staff of life," as it has aptly been called,

is but too frequently the crutch whereupon to hobble to the grave. Events have recently occurred in the neighbourhood of the metropolis, calculated to direct public attention to the unquestionable fact, that the adulteration of bread is more general than is usually supposed, and more baneful than many may imagine. It appears that several individuals have been actually poisoned in the last fortnight by the noxious ingredients—on the use of which, millers and bakers not unfrequently calculate for an undue increase of their trade profits. It has long been notorious, that thousands of tons of the white Derbyshire spar are annually mixed, in a pounded state, with the flour sold to bakers, and by them vended as bread to the public. Ground bones constitute another of the disgusting components of what is called bread; and, it is certainly often the case, that, instead of the means of health and strength, we consume a material most prejudicial to the former and destructive to the latter. Since I have been in Hull I have scarce eaten a morsel of pure bread: and I give it as my firm conviction, that there is very little of that commodity to be obtained in this town.

Let the bakers look to it, and to themselves—for I hereby give them notice, that I will forthwith devote my attention to an analysis of what should be the staff of life; and so surely as I shall be enabled to prove the sale of an adulterated article, the seller shall be made to smart for his turpitude, and in all probability his trade will be destroyed, by the publicity, necessarily consequent, on his conviction for so gross and injurious an offence against the laws of the land. And here I must be permitted to observe, that although it appears from the Hull newspapers that several shopkeepers have recently been convicted for dishonest practices in this town, the names of these delinquents have been studiously concealed by the Editors. This is injustice; first, to the public, and secondly to the honest tradesman. I wish it were in my power to shew up the rogues, but whether I may be enabled to do so or not, as regards the convictions heretofore recorded, the evil-doers for the time to come shall not escape the notoriety they may provoke.

Be it known, however, that on every case of conviction by information, I have determined that the informer's proportion of each penalty inflicted by the Magistrates on the delinquents shall be distributed in charity to the poor, and *publicly advertised*. I would not only act on principle, but, like Cæsar's wife, I would be careful not to afford ground for even a suspicion of the purity of that principle.

If you, my friends, should derive wholesome bread from the measures contemplated, you will have reason to commend the effort by which such benefit will have been secured to you. At all events, none will have cause for anger but the dishonest and heartless.

THE EDITOR.

—oo—

TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, AND
THE WORSHIPFUL THE ALDERMEN OF THE
TOWN, AND COUNTY OF THE TOWN, OF
KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.—*Letter 1.*

SIRS,—You are administrators of the laws, having imposed upon you the duty of enforcing legal justice and the observance of Acts of Parliament among his Majesty's liege subjects of this his loyal borough. If a law be infringed by a poor man, you exercise the power of awarding punishment, and the illiterate pays for his ignorance by imprisonment, unless he be sufficiently wealthy to buy himself off—an arrangement now very generally warranted by the enactments of the Aristocracy by whom the laws are manufactured, and who take good care, in most instances, to provide, that a man who has money may avoid the gaol erected for those who are unable to pay the escape fees legally exacted.

I am, of course, bound to believe that you are learned in the law, or that you have a professional gentleman at your right hand who is so, and that by his advice, if not from your own knowledge, you do all things legally. I say that I am bound to believe this—because, in common justice and common courtesy, I have no right to assume you to be disqualified for the offices you fill, without sufficient evidence of your ignorance, obstinacy, or other unfitness for your Worshipful elevation. I trust, therefore, you will give me credit for liberality, or at least for a love of fair play, inasmuch as I am not one of those who conceive all Aldermen to be fools, and all Corporations oppressive, on the insufficient ground that Aldermen are Aldermen—and Corporations, Corporations. No, Gentlemen, I am actuated by far different motives, having devoted a considerable portion of my life to the belief, and attempt to establish by proof, that guttling and guzzling may be consistent with a knowledge of law and a love of justice. What, though I have hitherto failed!—does it follow that I am never to succeed? What, if I have for ten years been doomed to disappointment!—am I to relinquish all hope—and die in

despair?—Forbid it, Worshipful Sirs—in the name of beneficence, forbid it! Let me for once record that I have found a bench of Magistrates who qualified themselves for the administration of the laws in the shops and warehouses from which they were elevated to their posts of honor, dignity, and eminence. Enable me at length to demonstrate that there are Aldermen who delight as much in their personal observance of the laws as in their enforcement of that observance from others. Give me to know that there is one Mayor whose reasoning powers surpass the instinct of the unreasoning horse. Satisfy me that there may be a Town-clerk more impartial in his distribution of law than your Town-clocks are in their division of time. In short, Gentlemen, I implore you to enlighten me on these essentials, that I may go forth a missionary, for the conversion of my blind and benighted countrymen to that faith in Corporate wisdom and Aldermanic infallibility, from which they have fallen off, and in which, without such your assistance, I fear I shall be unable much longer to maintain my credulity.

Stranger as I am among you, how am I to proceed in the important investigation to which I would apply my humble powers of observation? If I enquire your character of yourselves, your modesty would do you an injustice. If I canvas the opinion of your townsmen—alas! I greatly fear their envy of your turtle and champagne would disqualify them from an honest appreciation of your hearts and brains.

What a singular coincidence! How fortunate an event! I am relieved from my embarrassment by the accidental discovery, among the literary furniture of my lodgings, of a volume of the Statutes of Kingston-upon-Hull, and which might well have had for its second title “The Corporate Touchstone.” This little book will tell me what you ought to have done—and investigation, observation, and information will do the rest. I proceed, therefore, to my task.

Among the contents, I observed the subject—“*Market-place*.” “Aye!” thought I, “and a pretty higgledy pig-geldy sort of *Market-place* it is!” *Market-street* it should rather be called, only that it is a few feet wider than the little lanes of which the town is composed, and which are called streets—and wherefore this street is dignified with the name of *Market-place*. For three days in the week this best thoroughfare in Hull is no thoroughfare at all, as an Irishman might say, and the shops and houses are unattainable by reason of the sanctioned nuisances wherewith

the pavements are covered, as though an interdiction had been issued against all trade by tradesmen, and a monopoly conceded to the higgledy ducks, the hawkers of butter, and the squalling salesmen of vegetating vegetables. It was on a market-day that I first entered the scene of your magisterial jurisdiction, and I must candidly admit that I was unpolite enough to curse you most heartily for every thump and bump administered to me on such occasion.—“Call you this keeping the peace?” said I. “Peas! four-pence a peck!” bawled their Stentorian advertiser, full on my distended tympanum—and, on my suddenly turning some three inches to the right of that annoyance, I run my nose full into a pound of butter, as the old hag shrieked out, “Taste it, ma’am!” “Not I, indeed!” said the elderly customer that might have been—“Not I, indeed! after that gentleman’s nose!” exclaimed she as she contemptuously elevated the extremity of her own proboscis—whereupon I concealed mine in my kerchief, and quietly cursing you as I pocketed the affront, made my way through the crowd with no other mishaps than the knocking off of my hat, and the establishment of a month’s raw on my shin-bone.

No wonder, then, that the title “*Market-place*,” in the book of Statutes attracted my attention, and that I turned to it with a hope of finding a salve for my wounds and a solace for my grief. The Act (41 Geo. III. c. 65) to which it refers, although it treats not of the nuisances of which I have complained, directs my attention to certain subjects of some moment to the people of Hull, to certain obligations on your part, and to the consideration whether or not you have acquitted yourselves as you ought to have done in regard to the matters especially ordered and directed therein.

There are indeed so many questions of alleged negligence on your part—so many reports of your incompetence—and so many suspicions of your interested perversion of property, held by you but in trust for your townsmen—that it is difficult to choose where to hit you the first blow. It is, however, immaterial, and I begin by hazard that fight which can only be hazardous to those who deserve to be beat.

But I must institute some enquiries into these subjects, before I commit myself by opinion, or by commendation or censure; and I need not add that any information you may be pleased to forward me (to the care of my publisher) shall command my most impartial attention. Meanwhile I beg to ask:—

1. Have you built a *Mansion-House* as required, and where directed, by the Act of Parliament?

2. Have you built the *Ferry-boat Dock*, as specifically directed by Act of Parliament?

3. Have you appointed a Dock-Master, and built him a residence, as it is enacted that you should do?

"I pause for a reply,"—and shall, after diligent enquiry, resume my correspondence with you on Saturday next.

THE EDITOR.

—oo—

TO THE SUITORS IN THE COURT OF REQUESTS.

On a perusal of "A Collection of Statutes relating to the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull," recently compiled by Mr. William Woolley, the Solicitor, (and the arrangement and information of which very useful volume entitles that gentleman to the grateful acknowledgements of his obliged townsmen) I observed in the amended act (48 Geo. III. c. 109) for the more easy and speedy recovery of small debts, a table of the fees to be paid by the unfortunate suitors, which seems rather calculated to rob the creditor and oppress the debtor, than to promote the ends of justice and the professed object of the act itself as set forth in its preamble. The table of fees is subjoined:—

	On debts not exceeding 10s.	On debts above 10s. and not exceeding 40s.	On debts above 40s. and not exceeding £5.
CLERK'S FEES.	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Entering every cause - - -	0 3	1 0	1 6
Issuing every summons - - -	0 6	1 0	1 6
Calling the plaintiff and defendant before the court, and entering appearance - - - - -	0 3	0 3	0 6
Issuing every subpoena for the attendance of not more than two witnesses - - - - -	0 6	1 0	1 6
For a ponsuit on the plaintiff's not appearing - - - - -	0 6	1 0	1 6
For every hearing - - - - -	0 6	1 0	2 0
Entering and drawing up every order - - - - -	0 6	0 9	1 6
Paying money in full into court, and entering the same in his book - - - - -	0 6	0 9	1 6
Paying money by instalments - - -	0 6	0 9	1 0
Issuing every attachment, pre- cept, order, or execution - - -	1 0	1 6	2 6
Acknowledging satisfaction in part or in full - - - - -	0 6	0 6	1 0
For every search in the book - - -	0 2	0 3	0 6
Swearing every witness - - - - -	0 3	0 4	0 6
For every supersedeas for a debtor charged in execution - - - - -	0 9	1 0	2 0
For every warrant of commit- ment for an insult or mis- behaviour in the Court or to the Commissioners' Clerk, or other officer of the court, 1s. For recovering money out of Court - - - - -	0 3	0 6	1 0

SERJEANT'S FEES.

For the service of every sum- mons, order, or subpoena, in the town - - - - -	0 3	0 6	0 9
If out of the town, for every mile extra - - - - -	0 2	0 3	0 3
For the execution of every war- rant, precept, or attachment, against the body or goods, in the town - - - - -	0 6	1 0	2 0
If out of the town, for every mile extra - - - - -	0 2	0 3	0 3
If an Assistant Serjeant be neces- sary in the judgment of the Commissioners, then for the Assistant, in the town - - -	0 4	0 8	1 0
If out of the town, for every mile extra - - - - -	0 2	0 3	0 3

Now, on the most casual perusal of the above table, I think it will appear that this act was drawn up either by the Clerk of the Court himself, or at his instance. The fees are cruelly enormous, and the proportionate increase of those fees absurdly ridiculous.

It must not be forgotten, that whenever the debtor has property of any description (even to the bed on which he nightly reposes his weary limbs) to the extent of the claim of his creditor and the costs of the Court, all the fees are paid by him—or taken from him. And it is with this consideration that I look upon these fees to be enormous. They are taken from the poverty of the poor—like all other taxes in this Aristocratic country, because the poor have no voice in the imposition of those taxes. Were it otherwise, wealth would justly be compelled to contribute its quota, and necessity would be relieved from these goads to a prison or a workhouse. Would it not be more equitable that the officers of our Courts of Request should be remunerated by a county rate, to which all engaged in commerce and trade—that is, all who may possibly be benefitted by such institutions, should contribute? The merchants and tradesmen might perhaps object; but on what ground? They are compelled by law to be satisfied with the dividend of the bankrupt, and with the assets of the insolvent, whatever they may be—and it is not at all uncommon with them to accept a composition for the amount of their claims. Would they be worse off in paying a proportion of the expences, consequent on the recovery of twenty shillings in the pound from poor debtors? Or, if it be urged that they who sell their goods for cash ought not to be saddled with charges which benefit only those who sell on credit—and which would appear to be but just—why should not the creditor who sues in the Court of Requests be charge-

able with the costs of each suit. Debt is no crime—(it is but a civil contract between two persons, both of whom, were it criminal, would be parties to the commission of the offence) nor is poverty a sin—yet the poor debtor is made to pay, in purse or person, those costs of suit, from which the swindler and the felon are, in our criminal courts, exempted! How gross and iniquitous an anomaly is this! The man who takes the benefit of the Insolvent Act is allowed to retain cloathes and furniture to the value of £20, whilst the poor debtor, sued in the Court of Requests, who most probably does not owe £5 in the world, and who cannot get whitewashed, first, because he cannot afford to pay the lawyer to assist him in swindling his creditors, and, secondly, because he would be starved during the process—this poor debtor thus circumstanced and thus sued, may have his bed taken from beneath him—by reason and for the payment of the creditor's costs of suing him!!! It will hence be seen that whilst poverty is at a sad discount, swindling bears a high premium. "Get a few pounds in debt, and you may be driven to the workhouse; but rob by the thousand, and the Courts of Law allow you maintenance whilst in gaol, and an outfit on your leaving it." Such is the language of truth, and the poor debtor is persecuted, whilst the wholesale swindler drives to a prison in his carriage, refuses payment by a liveried messenger, and is *pitied* by everybody! Faugh!

Let me next observe on the amount of these fees. On a debt of ten shillings, the charges cannot well be less than half that amount—and they would be just as much if the debt were five shillings, or even five pence. What does the Court say to its unfortunate defendants? Why this:—"Poor man! you admit that you owe the plaintiff ten shillings, and you say that you would have paid him if you had been able to earn more than 16s. a week, or if you had not had a wife and five children to maintain—therefore pay fifteen shillings"—half as much more as the debt itself!

Supposing the debtor to owe eleven shillings instead of ten—the chairman of the commissioners might then very truly address him in this language:—"You are by law rendered liable to punishment for having allowed your creditor to trust you, and you must be punished. Now, if you had been content with accepting a credit of 10s.—we should only have fined you half that sum in addition; but, desperate offender as you are in exceeding that liberal limit of moderate credit!—since you have permitted the plaintiff to trust you to the dangerous extent of 11s.—you must, and the order of this Court is that you do, pay to its Clerk the said debt, with a fine (costs) of 8s. 6d.—and if you do not pay it willingly, the sergeant will have to receive from you a remuneration for his trouble either in

taking you to gaol or in fetching your few traps from your miserable apartment!" With how exalted an idea of law and justice must such defendants leave this court!!!

The Act of Parliament is entitled "An Act for the more easy and speedy recovery of small debts." Had I the christening of it, I would call it—"An Act for the more speedy ruin and certain incarceration of Englishmen and their wives and families—for small debts." Alas! when will the laws of this country be equitable? Assuredly not until all who are taxed by the laws shall be equitably entitled to have a voice in the enactment of those laws.

The subject of this letter may appear of very limited importance to those who feel not the gripping necessity of the times, and have not to encounter the hardships to which the poor are so frequently, and at this period so generally subjected. Should the rich be, therefore, indifferent to the injustice perpetrated against the labouring classes of society? Assuredly not, if they value their own best interests.

THE EDITOR.

—00—

TO ROBERT MACKENZIE BEVERLEY, ESQ.

Religion---the best gift man e'er receiv'd,
Outrag'd by priests---deceiving or deceiv'd,
Beverley! to vindicate be thine!
'Ere mitred traders in the dross of dust
Reduce God's temple to a mart for lust
Truth with resistless radiance shall shine.

Millions of Freemen, millions yearly pay,
And parsons dance and preach---hunt, drink and pray;
Churches like mushrooms rise, and on each side
Kennels for hounds---assembly rooms for pride.
"Episcopacy! child of pomp and pow'r!"
"Not all thy greatness stays the passing hour!"
"Zeal in a shadow---is the zeal of fools,
"Imposture---but the cunning of the schools
"Engrafted on the stem of knavish rules!"

Behold! how certain truth's unerring shaft!
Errors, begot in Rome by Popish craft
Various as vicious---and by Prelates bound
England's state Church and Englishmen around,
Robert Mackenzie Beverley assails.
Lo! before reason, how the Sophist quails!
Error unmask'd, and imposition prov'd;
Yells rend the Churches:---GOLD, not Truth, they lov'd.

THE EDITOR.

MY NOTE-CASE.

A correspondent, signing himself "AN INVALID," informs me that there is a bone-mill and a corn-mill on the same premises at Grimsby; and that some of the Hull bakers receive their flour from that port.--- This unblushing union of trades is most impudently indecent. Does the dealer in bone-dust and flour conceive it possible that sane men will give him credit for the manufacture of pure wheaten flour, when he is at no pains to protect his works from the contamination of that disgusting substitute, ground bones?

ED.

JOSEPH NOBLE, PRINTER, HULL.

THE Hull Portfolio;

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF AN EDITOR.

"Bonis nocet quisquis pepercit malis."—CICERO.
HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING, BY JOSEPH NOBLE,
(*opposite the High Church*) MARKET-PLACE, HULL.

Vol. 1.—No. 2.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1831.

Twopence.

TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, AND
THE WORSHIPFUL THE ALDERMEN OF THE
TOWN, AND COUNTY OF THE TOWN, OF
KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.—*Letter 2.*

—“Man, associated and leagued with man
By regal warrant, or self-join'd by bond
For interest-sake * * * * *
Contracts defilement not to be endured.
Hence charter'd boroughs are such public plagues;
And burghers (men immaculate perhaps
In all their private functions) once combined,
Become a loathsome body, only fit
For dissolution, hurtful to the main.”

COWPER'S TASK.

SIRS,—A considerable period of time has elapsed
since the conversation took place to which I am about
to refer as introductory to this my second letter to
your worshipful body. Mr. Philip Ward, your white
mace-bearer, (and I might add, with reference to an-
other anecdote, your “Mayor's face-bearer”*) was one
of the parties to this affair of small-talk; and a gen-
tleman who either is or was an active and intelligent
officer of another Corporation, was also a participator
in the matter.

“Don't tell me of your Corporation?” said the hos-
t and independent advocate of the rights of his fei-

The master of a sloop, being intoxicated, was taken into custody,
in due course shewn into the police court by the stately mace-
bearer, where he was forthwith sentenced to a term of imprisonment
as he thought, by the gentleman by whose manner and appearance
was most sensibly impressed. Six years subsequently this same in-
dividual, falling into a like scrape, was conveyed to the justice room,
where the white mace-bearer again officiated in shewing the poor
fellow into the magisterial presence. The sailor, looking for a moment
at the portly person of this gentleman-usher to their worships, im-
mediately exclaimed, “If thou'st yet Mayor, old cock, I know my sen-
tence; so take me to limbo.”

low citizens; “don't preach to me about your public
spirit and your honourable conduct! It is all humbug,
and your Corporation, like all other Corporations, is
but a hot-bed of iniquity, injustice, and avarice!”

“Aye!” responded the veteran mace-bearer, with
a self-congratulatory chuckle—“but that hot-bed is
undisturbed, and its produce unknown to any but the
initiated. If you were the gardener, now, you might
find it prolific in much that you dream not of.”

“And what of this?”—you may perhaps ask. Why,
only that it was somewhat prophetic. Your mace-
bearer, without dealing in the black art, has raised a
spirit, he and you may find it something difficult to lay,
—an uneasy spirit, one of light, whose tranquillity is
disturbed by the concealment of those deeds of dark-
ness which shun the beams of the all-glorious orb of
truth—and who, in the humble character of your gar-
dener, would weed your Corporate paths, purify your
hot-bed of its engendered rankness, and prune the
public vineyard of all that is not useful, however orna-
mental your bad taste and perverted judgment may
have led you to suppose those many brambles by which
the air and light of heaven have so long been inter-
cepted in their passage from the giver of all good to
the intended recipients of HIS bounty.

At the conclusion of my former letter I took the li-
berty of asking you three questions; and, as you in your
bashfulness, have hesitated to trouble me with your
answers, I am under the necessity of fulfilling that duty
for you. Make no apologies; for you are heartily
welcome to any little service of this kind which it may
be in my power to render you.

1. *Have you built a MANSION-HOUSE, (or GUILDHALL)
as required and where directed, by the Act of Parliament?*

The act to which I allude is the 41st of George III. chapter 65. The following is the fourth clause of that act:—

“Be it enacted, by the King’s Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that the Mayor and Burgesses of the said town or borough of Kingston-upon-Hull, in common council assembled, shall be and they are hereby empowered to take down the building called or known by the name of the Guildhall, of the town of Kingston-upon-Hull, and to lay out the ground whereon the same stands, or so much thereof as they shall judge necessary, in enlarging and improving the market-place in the said town; and the said Mayor and Burgesses in common council assembled, are hereby directed and required, at their own expence, to erect and build or cause to be erected and built, in a good and workmanlike manner, a larger and more commodious Guildhall, upon such part of the ground whereon the present Guildhall now stands as shall not be wanted for the purposes aforesaid, and on other ground belonging to the said Mayor and Burgesses which adjoins thereto, or upon some part of the ground near or adjoining to the present Guildhall, which shall be purchased under the authority of this act; and that the said new Guildhall, when erected and built as aforesaid, shall be maintained, supported, and kept in repair by and at the expence of the said Mayor and Burgesses and their successors for ever.”

Now, you are DIRECTED and REQUIRED by the King, Lords, and Commons, to do certain specific acts. The authority by which you are so directed and required cannot be questioned by you until the era of a British Republic; and the Tories have as yet no reasonable ground for anticipating the early arrival of that period, inasmuch as all their efforts to induce the Revolution which would beget Republicanism have hitherto failed. Besides, you yourselves appealed to that authority, beseeching this very Act of Parliament. It was passed at the instance of the Corporation. The expence of procuring it was defrayed by the Corporation, out of the Corporate funds. Therefore it is clear that you bought this Act of Parliament—and I have a shrewd guess that you are in the same condition with the man who bought and twisted the materials of the halter wherewith *his* Corporation was afterwards suspended from a gibbet as a warning to others.

Yet, not only did your precious Corporation entreat, purchase and pay for this Act of Parliament, but you also recognized it, by acting upon it, and by your fulfilment of certain of its directions and requisitions—indeed of just so many of them as you deemed advantageous, and of no more of them than you were pleased to consider lucrative or convenient.

The bill having passed the House of Commons and the House of Lords received the assent of the Sovereign—and was then sent to your High Mightinesses, not, as it should seem, for your execution as a law, but for your approval or rejection—for your worshipful assent. What a precious *imperium in imperio* would you constitute! The wisdom of the Legislature is to

be submitted to your correction—and the will of the Sovereign subjected to your judgment! The Corporators of Hull are to erect the standard of absolute power, and the majesty of the King and the authority and power of Parliament are to do homage to you as their feudal lords!!! What absurdity! What presumption! What impudence! What disloyalty! What treason! Yet your acts claim for you all these characteristics

The frogs in the fable besought Jupiter to bestow upon them a King, and, for their folly, he gave them one—a log of wood. You croaked for the privilege of being permitted to please yourselves. You were asked “how?” You replied, “thus—and thus—and thus.” Your prayer is acceded to, and you are directed “thus—and thus—and thus, *shall you do.*” Have you done so? Let me see.

You have pulled down the old Guildhall, and where it stood you have erected as many buildings as you could, and have let as many of them as you could, and have received the rents for the same. The shops which you might have allotted to the butchers, you have let to hatters, tailors, and jewellers. The space where you should have built your new Guildhall, you have occupied with cubby-houses for butchers. The market is held in a street. From that market you have excluded the butchers, in order that you might increase your rental and avoid the direction of the Act of Parliament, to erect your new Guildhall on or adjoining the site of your old Guildhall.

The act in question received the royal assent in June, 1801—upwards of thirty years ago—yet the Guildhall is not yet commenced—nay worse, you have covered the space whereupon you were directed and required to build it, with other buildings, to the evasion of the law, and the endangerment, as *I hope to believe*, of your chartered rights—the chartered wrong of the inhabitants of Hull!

2. Have you built the FERRY-BOAT DOCK, as specifically directed by the same Act of Parliament?

3. Have you appointed a DOCK-MASTER to the said Dock and built a HOUSE for such Dock-Master, as it is enacted that you should do?

It is a matter of notoriety that you have, in the respects, treated the Act of Parliament in just the same manner as in the matter of the Guildhall, viz.—“an act for enabling the Corporators of Hull to do

pleases them with the property held by them in trust for others, and without reference to the interests, wishes, convenience, comfort or necessities of those whose Chartered Trustees they are." The act granted you certain lands on certain considerations—for certain purposes, to wit, "*in order to enable you to make a dock with gates, and a wharf or landing-place, at the south end of the street leading from the Market-place to the Humber, for the reception and accommodation of the ferry and market boats belonging and resorting to the town.*" The pretence under which you obtained the act, and which pretence I may justly characterise as false, was, that the things therein directed to be done by you "*would contribute much to the convenience and accommodation as well of the INHABITANTS of Hull as the public in general.*" Without such pretence, or some such, you could not have obtained this Act of Parliament. If you had avowed your real object, viz. that you were desirous of drinking more wine at your Corporate guzzlings—or of eating more turtle at your Corporate guttings—or of securing to yourselves and friends more of the good things within your Corporate distribution; if you had candidly confessed such motives to have actuated you, do you imagine George the Third would have given his assent to a bill for legalizing such Corporate robbery? No—you are not quite such fools. Therefore the pretence of advantage to the inhabitants of the town was advanced. What hypocrisy! It is in the very nature of Corporations that Corporators should be selfish; nor are you an exception to this rule. All that is beneficial to the Corporators in this Act of Parliament, you have carried into effect, many, many years since; whilst all that promised benefit to your fellow-townsmen, without immediate and direct advantage to yourselves, you have neglected, as though the act were a private bill, establishing a Corporate benefit society, with funds raised by the taxation of the burgesses, for the sole benefit of the worshipful superiors of their association.

That you have erected a breakwater I am willing to admit, but you were directed to build a dock, and that you have not done; to appoint a dock-master, and that you have not done; and to build such dock-master a house, and that you have not done.

And is there no penalty for your wilful disobedience of the Acts of Parliament? Aye, truly is there, as

you will sooner or later find; for the possession of your chartered privileges is conditional on your good behaviour, and your administration of the laws of the land contingent on your uniform submission to those laws.

Now, inasmuch as I feel assured that the continuance of your Corporate powers would be, as it has hitherto been, prejudicial to the interests of the inhabitants of Hull, and as I have commenced this publication for the express purpose of benefitting the community at large, I unhesitatingly avow that I will strain every nerve to procure the revocation of the charters you have abused. Nor do I entertain the slightest doubt of my eventual success; in order to which it will be necessary that I enable those most immediately concerned to prove your gross and wilful neglect of your duties—the barefaced perversion of your powers, and an unprincipled abuse of the important trust reposed in you. This task I have commenced, and purpose proceeding in it week by week, to your further discomfiture and the increase of the excited expectations of the oppressed townsmen of ill-governed Hull. And now permit me to direct your attention to the subjoined letter, for it concerns you at least equally with those to whom it is especially addressed. You all swim in the same boat; and, were you wise men, you would ere this have perceived that the bolts have started, and the planks are about to undertake a voyage of discovery on their own account.

THE EDITOR.

—oo—

TO MR. CHARLES HENRY PHILLIPS, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, AND CLERK TO THE COURT OF REQUESTS.

SIR,—I beg to refer you to the first number of my "Memoirs and Correspondence," published last Saturday, wherein you will find a letter from me to the suitors of your court. The table of fees therein quoted, I extracted from 48 George III. chap. 109, and I now beg to call your attention to that paragraph which immediately follows. Lest you should hitherto have overlooked it, I transcribe it for your information:—"*A table of which fees shall be hung up by the Clerk of the said Court in some public and conspicuous part of the Court-house, or other place where the said Commissioners shall meet for the purposes aforesaid, to the end that all persons concerned may at all times see and read over the same.*"

Now, Sir, this duty you have neglected; and, as your situation is said to be worth from six hundred to a thousand a year, it may possibly be worth your while to attend to this suggestion forthwith; as, in the event of your further contempt of this specific direction of an Act of Parliament with which you ought to be well acquainted, other and less lenient measures might be resorted to.

It is my opinion, Sir, that you are greatly overpaid, and much less likely to attend to your business than if you had barely sufficient for reputable and comfortable subsistence. If, for instance, you depended on the situation in question at a salary of £200 a year, you would transact the business of the office yourself, instead of leaving such duty to the Serjeant, as you now do—with the exception of some four or five hours every fortnight. Is it not against the conscience of any man, save a lawyer, to pocket upwards of £500 a year, for the devotion (at the utmost) of thirteen days' time, at ten hours to the day? Is it not unconscionable, Sir, to take this £500 annually from the bread of the poor man's family—from the pockets of the unfortunate ~~debtor~~ *It is unjust—it is cruel—This is part of the* system which (thank God!) is fast passing from us—a tendril of that political poison-tree, which, more destructive than the fabled Upas, has ruined millions, and hurried thousands upon thousands to an untimely death! Alas! how few are they who reflect on the full extent of the evil by which the many are kept on the verge of pauperism, that the few may attain their undue elevation of unmerited affluence! It is not an exaggeration to state, that one-half of the deaths throughout the United Kingdom are consequent on that lingering starvation, sure in its effect, although slow in its progress, to which the abused working classes are subjected by Aristocratic legislation and its elongated train of evils, whereby the labourer is put on short allowance, that official menials may gorge to superfluity.

The poor man, whose daily labour is a continued exhaustion of his strength, needs more nourishment than the bloated pensioner he has contributed to fatten. A stinted allowance must result in a reduction of strength; thus the labourer, whose earnings are barely sufficient, and who is nevertheless compelled to contribute heavily from his mere existence fund towards the taxes of the Aristocrats, becomes day by day less

able to earn a scanty support for himself and family. Yet, day by day, his reduced strength is equally required, and the process of exhaustion goes on, whilst in proportion as more strength is needed, less nourishment is obtained. The family eat less meat and more bread: then the labourer instead of beer drinks water; afterwards the potatoe becomes more plentiful than bread—and by this graduated scale starvation works its slow but certain course. The poor man is put into your court because unable to pay his little debts, and he finds himself compelled, by reason of his poverty, to contribute from his cupboard and furniture towards the remuneration of an attorney, who is entitled under an aristocratic law to be paid for his time at the rate of *thirty-eight pounds nine shillings and two pence for his day's work!!!* from the pockets of men, few of whom can earn more money in a twelve-month, although they every day do more work and exhaust more strength than you in a year. And mark the distinctiveness of your respective exertions; they labour to keep themselves from a gaol and their families from a workhouse, whilst your official services have an immediate tendency to reduce them to that state of cruel degradation.

Sir, I expose the system; and albeit I cannot avoid at the same time exposing the system-mongers—the locusts by whom the land is accursed—I would not willingly or unnecessarily wound the feelings of an individual. Your personal respectability is one thing—your public character another. I doubt not, that, as a man and a professional gentleman, you would scorn a dirty or an oppressive act; but as an official you lose your individuality, become one of a body, do no worse than your predecessors, and therefore hold yourself acquitted of all criminality in taking so large a slice of the poor man's loaf as to draw down upon you and the system of which you are the beneficial instrument,

—“curses, not loud, but deep.”

I must address you again in my next; meanwhile I pray you to “read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest” that which I have written to you and others. You will not get 6s. 8d. for your trouble, but you may get a few hints and a little common sense, which by a wise man and a good man may be turned to advantage.

THE EDITOR.

TO MESSRS. THOMAS BOYCE, WILLIAM CHAPLIN, JOSEPH DAWSON, ROBERT FEATHERBY, THOMAS WALKDEN, and GEORGE SILSTON, LESSEES OF THE FERRY TO AND FROM HULL AND BARTON.

SIRS,—You rent the ferry between Hull and Barton of the Corporation of this borough, at the annual rental of £800, payable half yearly. Your lease was for twelve years and a quarter, commencing July 1st, 1821, and terminating October 1st, 1833.

The Corporation of Hull rent it from the Crown, at the annual sum of £236 5s. 7d., and their lease will expire on the 10th October, 1833, it having been granted for twenty-one years, from the 10th October, 1812.

It will hence appear, that during the last ten years, you have paid the Corporation the amount of £8000—that they have paid the crown for the same period, £2362 15s. 10d.; leaving a net profit to the Corporation of £5637 4s. 2d.

This amount you have transferred from the pockets of the public to the Corporate purse, and to what greater extent you have carried this system of extortion I have yet to learn. Be that as it may, you have played the part of the cat to the Corporate monkey, with this point of difference, that whilst your fabulous prototype got nothing better than burns for her trouble, you have had your whack of the chesnuts. Nevertheless the burns await you.

It appears to me that your arrangement with the Corporation is but very little better than a foul conspiracy to rob the public to your mutual advantage. You are partners in the spoil, and should be participators in the punishment, and will be, if I am not greatly deceived.

You charge one shilling per head for the passage across this ferry in your steamer. By what right? You will probably reply, by the authority of the Corporators, your lessors. I proceed, therefore, to enquire into their right to make or to authorise you or others to make such charge.

In the 8th year of the reign of Edward II., in consequence of long existing extortionate practices on the part of those in whose possession the Humber ferry then was, a petition, on behalf of the community at large, was presented on the subject of these extortions to that Sovereign. This representation declared the ancient and customary fare to have been, a penny for a horseman and a halfpenny for one on foot; it then complained that this fare had of late years been doubled. The petition thus presented, resulted in an issue of the King's writs to the lords of the ferry, restricting them to the ancient and customary charge.

It should be observed that the then ferry was from Hessele to Barton.

In the ensuing year (1315—9th Edward II.) and, as it should seem, in consequence of the continuation of the extortions before complained of, a ferry was established between Hull and Barton, “for the improvement of the King's borough of Hull; and for the convenience of the people of the town and parts adjacent.” This ferry was the King's—the proceeds being paid into the Exchequer by the Warden of this town. The fares from Hull to Barton and back again, according to the grant, were then, as follows:—

For every man on foot.....	0½
A man and horse.....	1
Carriage with two horses.....	2
Every additional horse.....	1
For every beast.....	1

This ferry, (with the tolls arising therefrom,) was afterwards granted by the King to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of this town, on payment of an annual fee farm rent—and these honest trustees for their fellow townsmen, have from time to time, and at their own will and pleasure—and without any right or authority—and in the teeth of their grant—and in despite of the ancient and customary fares, increased the charge from a halfpenny to a shilling for a foot passenger.

The renters of this ferry have for many years employed two boats between Hull and Barton—charging more for the passage in one than in the other—and in either much more than they had any right to charge. These boats were the horse boat and the hoy. The charge in the former has been, possibly for half a century, and still is twopence for inhabitants of Hull, and fourpence for strangers. That in the latter was for many years, and until the 6th of January, 1815, fourpence for the townspeople, and sixpence to strangers. At the period mentioned, the fare was raised to a shilling.

Now, a ferry is public property—reposed in private hands for the public good and on condition. In this case, the condition was the charge: and no longer than the Corporate body keeps faith in that respect, can it lay claim with any propriety to the monopoly so conditionally granted to them. What right have they to run two boats at different fares? What right have they to charge a stranger more for his fare than a townsman? None whatever—not even the shadow of a claim—no more than they have to vary

from the chartered table of ferry charges—no more than they have to increase those fees, as they have hitherto done, at their option—first creeping from a halfpenny to twopence—next making a *public* ferry a local accommodation, and charging strangers fourpence—then raising the toll of the townspeople to that of strangers, and encreasing the latter to sixpence—and finally charging the one and the other a shilling. The whole of these proceedings are *illegal*; and, mark me, *WILFULLY ILLEGAL*. The Corporators know, *as I shall prove*, that they have no right to more than the halfpenny. They knew this when they were charging sixpence. Did they reduce their fares to the legal amount? No! *they immediately doubled them!* Is it for the accommodation of the steamer that we have now a shilling extorted from us instead of a halfpenny? No—the extortion was practised to this extent full eight years before the steamer commenced running between Hull and Barton.

When the Corporation bargained for their present lease, the fares were 2d. 4d. and 6d. That lease was for twenty-one years. Not three years had expired of this term, when they raised the fares to their present price! To what meanness does the lust of avarice decoy its creatures! If A. give B. a cheque on his banker for £6, in satisfaction of his claim to that amount—what would the world say of the conduct of B. if, before he present that cheque, he alter the *six* into *sixty* in the body of the document, and add a 0 to the 6, after the £, in its lower left hand corner? They would say, he was either a madman or a rogue. But, if B. before so committing himself, consulted his professional adviser on the legality of such proposed alteration—and if that adviser told him he would act illegally if he did so—and if, notwithstanding such advice, B. nevertheless made the said nefarious alterations—would there then be any doubt in any honest man's mind whether he had more of the madman or of the rogue in his composition?

* * * * *

Gentlemen,—Before raising the charges per head from sixpence to a shilling, the Mayor and Aldermen of Hull submitted the entire *case* to their then Recorder, Mr. Osbourne, and which case, introduced the following question for his opinion and advice:—

All which papers Mr. Recorder is requested to peruse, and to advise the Corporation whether they have now the power of increasing the fares or rates to be paid in future for the passage across the Humber, in either the Hull or Barton ferry boats?"

Reader—before you refer to the most learned Recorder's opinion on the case submitted to him, observe that he who gave the opinion was himself a member of the Corporation, and than whom no professional gentleman could reasonably be supposed more anxious to have given a favorable judgment of the matter submitted to him. Having given this observation its due weight; read, word by word—and consider, sentence by sentence—that independent, honorable and learned gentleman's

OPINION:

"I have perused this case, and all the papers by which it is accompanied, and after full consideration of the subject, I cannot recommend to the Corporation to raise the fares to be paid for the passage across the Humber.

"A ferry, like a fair or market, is granted by the Crown to a Corporate body or an individual, as a franchise for the benefit of the public; and if the tolls or rates be increased beyond what are specified in the grant, or which arise by prescription (which pre-supposes a grant) the officer-taking them is liable to an indictment for extortion.

"Such indictments for taking more than the ancient and accustomed fares for passing a ferry, are mentioned in many of the books, and there is a case in 4th Modern Reports, page 101, very applicable to the subject under my consideration, which was removed into the Court of King's Bench by certiorari; and though judgment was finally given for the defendant on a motion in arrest of judgment, the ground of it was, that the information was bad in point of form, and therefore the verdict of guilty pronounced on the trial, against the defendant, could not be sustained; yet, neither by the counsel for the defendant, nor by the court, was it ever suggested that the offence was not indictable.

"A ferry is an easement of the subject, and granted for the benefit of the public, usually upon a return to a writ of ad quod damnum, to enquire whether it would be prejudicial to the King or any person; and after the Sheriff's return to such a writ, King Edward the Second erected the ferry across the Humber, and it was subsequently granted by the same King, to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of Kingston-upon-Hull, (I presume its then Corporate name) together with the tolls arising therefrom; and notwithstanding the ferry was granted in fee to the Corporation, I apprehend that the tolls mentioned as appurtenant to the ferry, were only such as the King had ordained to be taken for the passage of men, horses, &c by the ferry.

"If these rates were to be increased, and resisted by the public, either by action for money had and received, or by indictment against the lessee for extortion, I very much fear that upon whatever deliberation the internal regulations of the Corporation were established, a good defence could not be made to such an action.

"Should this subject be drawn under discussion before any of the superior courts, it is possible that upon a production of the original grant, and the entries in the books of the Corporation (which, upon motion, the court would order) the rate of toll originally prescribed by King Edward the Second, might be determined to be the only legal rate.

"With respect to the Barton ferry, I think these observations apply more strongly, for it is yet a King's ferry, and the Corporation are only lessees of it,

(Signed) "R. OSBOURNE.

"Braffords, October 3rd, 1814."

Now, it was on the 1st of January, 1815, that the Corporators, who took this opinion from their Recorder, raised the fare to double what it was when the case was submitted by them to the learned Counsel for his opinion and advice. Was not his opinion valuable? Was not his advice sound? They sent to him; ergo, they thought him competent to the task.

"But did nothing else transpire between the receipt of this opinion and the doubling of the fares?" It is a very natural question for you to ask, gentlemen, and in the next number of my "Memoirs and Correspondence," I will resolve your enquiry.

THE EDITOR.

—00—

TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE HULL SAVINGS' BANK.

GENTLEMEN,—You are appointed by Act of Parliament, Trustees to the little property of the provident poor. It therefore behoves you religiously to observe those rules which ought to regulate your proceedings, and the infraction of which is a breach, 1st, of the law, and 2ndly, of the conditions under which the deposits received by you were made. Your 27th rule runs thus:—

"All sums which shall have been deposited by persons deceased, and which are not claimed within six years of such decease, shall be vested in the Trustees; and, together with any excess of interest, shall form an auxiliary fund, out of which shall be paid every expence incurred in the management of the Bank. Whenever the Bank has been ten years

in operation, a portion of this fund may be divided among the existing Depositors, in such proportions as the Directors may judge proper. At least one-half is ordered by the Act of Parliament (5 Geo. IV. sec. 11.) to be retained to meet any contingency or loss which may arise, and which cannot be guarded against. The same may be done at the end of every ten years."

You have now such surplus fund, and the period has recently arrived at which you may divide a proportion of such surplus among the existing depositors. Do you propose doing so? On the contrary, do you not propose to apply such surplus otherwise? Do you not propose to divide it only among those of the depositors who happen to have children of an educational age, and who may prefer sending those children to your school, (paying 2s. per quarter in addition) instead of continuing them where they may now be for the purpose of education?

There are other objections to your conduct than those which I can at this moment refer to; but, pressed as I am for space in the present number, I cannot postpone the expression of my opinion:—

1. That you have broken faith with the depositors.
2. That you have acted unjustly to the aged and unmarried.
3. That you have subjected yourselves to the imputation of having so acted for the creation of an influence rather calculated to uphold an inferior aristocracy, than to advance the real interests of the general body of Depositors, for whom you are Trustees.

THE EDITOR.

—00—

TO DANIEL SYKES, ESQ. PRESIDENT OF THE HULL AUXILIARY PEACE SOCIETY.

SIR,—I was much gratified last Wednesday evening, by the proceedings at the public meeting for the formation of a Branch Peace Society. I think it will be very useful, if it but convince the lower orders that they are fools to let themselves out to the oppressors of mankind, to be shot at, on the condition that if they be not killed, they shall be provided with the means of living, so long as they refrain from the exercise of their reasoning powers, and consent to be considered as merely mechanical instruments of Aristocratic ambition, exaction, and injustice. The diffusion of knowledge will eventually effect this object, and such is the agency upon which this society mainly depends for its success. It was, therefore, with great pleasure I became a

member of an institution, which, in reducing the probability of war, increases the reasonable expectation of reduced taxation, and of a bellyful and a bed to the industrious classes of society.

Your's, very respectfully,

THE EDITOR.

—00—

TO THOSE WHO GRIND BONES AND CORN AND SELL BONE DUST AND CORN FLOUR.

GENTLEMEN,—The Hull Directory advertises certain individuals as “*Bone-merchants and Corn-millers.*” This is a strange inconsistency, if it deserve no worse appellation. If you grind your bones and flour at one mill, will people believe that the *flours* never get mixed—*more or less*? I, at least, am sceptical on the point, and should be very sorry to patronize the baker who patronizes you. Suppose a butcher were to announce himself a killer of rotten sheep, and a salesman of sound mutton, would you go there for your meat? If you saw sheep's livers perforated with holes, and “all alive oh!” with the insect called “flook,” hanging in front of his shop, would you order a leg of mutton of such a butcher? If so, you must have a stronger stomach or a weaker noddle than other folks, and among them myself. Yet waggons of rotten bones and other waggons of wheat arrive at the same mill in succession; and remind me of that line in Jack the Giant Killer, not less appalling now, than when first heard from the throat of the family nursery-maid:—

“Be he alive or be he dead,
I'll grind his bones to make my bread.”

THE EDITOR.

—00—

TO MR. WM. MERCER, MARKET-PLACE, HULL.

SIR,—You are the Vicar's Churchwarden for the parish of Holy Trinity. Your especial duty is to protect the interests of the incumbent, and it is by no means consistent with that duty to attempt a species of parochial domination over your neighbours—fellow-tradesmen and fellow-townsmen. This you have endeavoured to effect, but with what eventual success, remains to be seen,

On the 26th of May last, the parishioners met for the purpose of passing a rate for the repairs of the church. You took the chair. At that meeting, the rate-payers expressed their dissatisfaction at the unnecessary extravagance of the repairs, the ignorance of those engaged in their management, and the consequent delay in the work. To

remove these causes of objection, a Committee of five respectable rate-payers was appointed to assist the Churchwardens in this particular business, and to elect a properly qualified superintendant. You put the motion; and it having been carried unanimously, you then wished to alter the names of the gentlemen elected, but not being allowed to perpetrate such indignity, you quitted the chair, and left the chancel in a *huff*. Many a younger child has cried for plums and refused green-gages. Such are whipped; but older children need correction of another sort. *They* know better; and the man that knows how to act and will not act as he should, must expect the lash of plain truth, though it cut through the thick skin of his self-will, and penetrate to his flesh of shame.

After your departure, a rate-payer having been appointed to the chair, the rate of 6d. in the pound was agreed to.

It seems that now you would have the rate (passed after you had bolted from the course)—but without the Committee, (agreed to under your presidency). You may try this point certainly; and if you are allowed to carry it, the parishioners will well deserve to be rated, not only on their purses but on their servility to an official, not one whit superior in any point of view to those appointed to superintend and control him in the matter of the repairs in progress. I shall keep an eye on the future proceedings, and on your conduct.

THE EDITOR.

MY NOTE-CASE.

I desire to know, 1st, The present Town Clerk's charge for a summons for a church rate; 2ndly, The charge of his late father and predecessor on similar occasions. Ed.

Poor Micah Robinson! Every body gives him a good word. He could not have been a bad fellow. His charge against the Commodore should be investigated; it was not preferred thoughtlessly; Robinson was not even half-and-half when he wrote the letter addressed to the Coroner and Jury. The Editors of certain of the Hull-papers would not publish the letter, although read on the inquest, without a prior reference to the Commissioners of Pilots, and a concurrent publication of their denial of the truth of its allegations. I think the Commissioners interested witnesses. They were the agents of Robinson's enemy. They are the instruments of the Commodore's malevolence. The letter written by the lamented deceased on the morning on which he destroyed himself, has in it something of the character of a dying declaration. At least, he believed his declarations to be true. He was a man of more mind than the superior to whom he was subjected; and alas! but too sensitive to submit to what he felt to be persecution. The Commodore is unknown to me, and albeit the Commissioners (his coadjutors in this matter) may give him a character, I have reason to think that poor Robinson's opinion of him is entertained by many who are equally under his control, and who, like the deceased, dare not declare their sentiments whilst subject to the operation of a vengeful retaliation. There are few of the pilots who would put themselves out of the way to give this Commodore a good character—even if solicited to do so. They may possibly be induced to promise silence on the subject of his defects; but if this promise were anxiously sought for, would not its necessity be “confirmation strong” of poor Robinson's charges? He has left a widow and four children. Something must be done for them; and especially for the youngest boy, who is an out-door-apprentice to a respectable tradesman in this town. The father was compelled for many years to contribute towards the fund for the relief of decayed pilots. Will not the Commissioners, in equity, allot a portion from the deceased's contributions, for the maintenance of his unprovided orphan? Ed.

JOSEPH NOBLE, PRINTER, HULL.

THE

Hull Portfolio;

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF AN EDITOR.

"Bonis nocet quisquis pepercit malis."—CICERO.
HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING, BY JOSEPH NOBLE,
(*opposite the High Church*) MARKET-PLACE, HULL.

Vol. 1.—No. 3.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1831.

Twopence.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL BROTHERHOOD OF THE
TRINITY-HOUSE OF KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.

Letter 1.

SIRS,—I believe it to be unquestionably true that much of the evil that unfortunately exists in this town,—presenting an insurmountable barrier to its prosperity by counteracting the advantages nature has given it, may be attributed to its Corporations; among which your precious fraternity takes a most prominent and discreditable position. An intelligent correspondent apprises me of the additional fact, that neither you nor your worshipful compeers of the Guild-hall, could have attained your present unenviable notoriety for bad deeds, evil disposition, and mischievous tendency, but for the worthlessness of the newspaper-press, which either abets or suffers the impositions and oppressions which but too frequently characterise your proceedings. The "Rockingham" is stated to be very much afraid of you, whilst the "Advertiser" and "Packet" are alleged to be immediately subject to your influence and under your control. I am clearly of opinion that these charges against the Hull journals are not entertained without good reason. That the Corporations of this town are rotten at the core will scarcely admit of a doubt among those who have long suffered the infliction of their tyrannical and overbearing conduct. Nor is it less notorious that if the local public press had acquitted itself of the duty of protecting the interests of the town and port from the destructiveness of Corporate power, Corporate mismanagement, and Corporate mischief, the evil could never have attained its present aggravated character; and the intervention of a stranger, in protection of the trade, commerce, and rights of the people of Hull, would have been unnecessary and indeed intrusive. The instant success of this little publication (commanding

a circulation of fifteen hundred copies on the strength of its utility alone) and the immediate and unsolicited proffer of support and information from gentlemen of undoubted respectability and veracity, is evidence, sufficient to the conviction of every unprejudiced mind, that the period has at length arrived when you will be compelled by the irresistible force of public opinion to fulfil your obligations and to cease your iniquities.

I cannot entertain any personal feelings of animosity, to those of whom, personally, I have no knowledge. My complaints and remonstrances, therefore, are based on the ground of public justice. As the advocate of the injured, I boast no qualification beyond that of wielding the pen of truth with a firm hand, and an equally firm determination that the cries of the wronged shall not be stifled, nor the commerce of Hull destroyed by the selfish rapacity of its Corporate incubus.

It appears to me as one of the peculiarities of the demon of oppression in this town, that he is multiform. First there is the Aldermanic demon—then there is the demon of your Brotherhood—next, these two demons beget the younger demon of the Docks—and lastly this demoniac triumvirate proceed to the Pilot-office, and yell their infernal quartetto, to the utter confusion of the unfortunate victims of this Commercial Moloch! So completely amalgamated, indeed, are the component parts of this instrument of Corporate persecution, that it is with some difficulty I treat them separately—as one might reasonably hesitate to censure the leg that kicked or the arm that struck, distinctively from the body which gave the impelling power or the head which lent the inciting malice. As, however, it would be most injudicious to amputate at the wrist for a mortification of the toe, it becomes necessary that I accurately determine the localities of the respective diseases, by the accumulation of which, this Corporate patient has been brought to my Editorial infirmary.

By the constitution of your body, you are authorised to receive a proportion of the earnings of every sailor in every ship sailing from this port. This power was given you for the purpose (among others) of securing to the distressed seaman relief in the hour of his necessity. At the period this taxation upon our shipping interest was imposed, it was not imagined that the receivers of such tax would devote thousands of pounds annually to the important object of gorging themselves, at the sacrifice of funds which ought to be religiously devoted to the charitable appropriation, contemplated on their establishment. This outlay is not merely imprudent and extravagant, but criminal—so long as you pinch the appetite of the necessitous sailor, to enable you to pamper yourselves at his expence; and when it is as notorious that you annually expend a large sum of money in Corporate gluttony, as it is that you begrudge poor sailors the pittance to which they are entitled from the fund to which they have been compelled to contribute, you must expect to be classed among those who are indifferent from what sources they derive the means for the indulgence of their personal appetites.

It seems that you are unable to perceive a difference between distress and pauperism—as you make it a principle not to relieve the distressed unless they are paupers—that is until the spirit of British sailors has been reduced to the level of beggary—the beggary of the poor-house mendicant! Think you that your Worshipful Brotherhood was established as a chartered jackall to the dispensers of the poor rates? What an ignoble construction of the purposes for which you were constituted a Corporation! You refuse to prevent the pauperism of our seamen—in order that you may have the gratification of relieving them as paupers! Distress is not a sufficient claim either on your justice or your charity—whilst degradation is an essential qualification, without which the unfortunate contributor to your funds may starve—aye! starve before the banquetting-hall of your “Guild of the Holy Trinity”!!! How unholy a profanation of those sacred words! Holy uncharitableness! Trinitarian worldliness! What next? Will you tell us that the sailors’ sixpences are religiously devoted to the bacchanalian purposes of your Corporate orgies? Will you openly avow that justice to poor seamen would be incompatible with the extravagant indulgence of your luxurious gormandizing? Will you write yourselves asses? Indeed such events would not surprise me. I therefore conclude this introductory epistle with the expression of my hope that you will not compel me to write you knaves.

THE EDITOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—I notice your letter to the lessees of the Corporation Ferry, and certainly think that you have done a service to the public in publishing the late Recorder’s opinion, on the subject of advancing the rates or fares of passage across the Humber. Surely, a subscription should be opened, for the purpose of a legal investigation of the matter; or would it not be a proper question for the Guardian Society to entertain and bring before the public, with the sanction of their name and character?

One of the pretexes for advancing the fare to 1s. to each passenger was, that by the regular ferry-boat all sorts of carriages, cattle, and persons were mingled together, (a great nuisance surely) and that it

was to remedy this inconvenience that another boat was provided; but at the same time it was optional for the passengers to proceed by this boat or not—thereby, if they did, willingly incurring the extra charge for the increased accommodation. Now, the purport of this note is to inform you that yesterday, viz. Monday, the 29th August, 1831, the noon steam-boat from Barton discharged (whilst I was accidentally standing near the water side,) a flock of sheep and a gentleman’s carriage, and I venture to say that this is not a singular circumstance but a common practice, whenever it suits the convenience or cupidity of the proprietors so to do.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

A.

MEM :—If this correspondent will refer to my letter of this day to the Lessees of the Ferry he will see the course to be pursued. I am quite sure the public will, for their own sake, accord me their support in fighting their battle; when it shall become necessary. In such case, I shall request a public meeting in order to the appointment of a committee of management; the creation of pecuniary means for the attainment of justice; and the selection of as incorrupt a lawyer, as the corrupt system of law under which we live, may have left us.

Ed.

—00—

TO MESSRS. THOMAS BOYCE, WILLIAM CHAPLIN, JOSEPH DAWSON, ROBERT FEATHERBY, THOMAS WALKDEN, and GEORGE SILSTON, LESSEES OF THE FERRY TO AND FROM HULL AND BARTON.—Letter 2.

“Discite justiciam mouiti.”

BE ADMONISHED TO LEARN JUSTICE.

SIRS.—It has been intimated to me, that I ought to address my observations on the ferry extortion, rather to the Corporators than to you as the lessees. I entertain a different opinion. If a man stop me on the highway, and rob me, it would be a pretty defence for the fellow to urge before a jury, that he was not the captain of the gang, and only acted on the orders and under the authority of his superior cut-purse! Yet, somewhat similar is the argument addressed to me, on this subject. You demand the fare of a shilling; such demand is an imposition; I refuse to pay it, and tender you the legal fare of a halfpenny—whereupon you, by your servants, will possibly enable me to put the matter at issue as between you and me, nominally, but in reality between the public and the Corporators of Hull. You will deceive yourselves if you imagine that having mooted this question, I shall flinch from the task I have undertaken. As one of the public, I will bring the affair to a decision—one way or another. Before, however, proceed in the necessary course of action, I think it but right to put you in possession of the real situation in which you are placed. I would convince you that my refusal to pay your extortionate charge is so fully justified, that your contesting the question will only enhance the difficulties which surround you. Having done so, it will be for you to determine whether you will fight the battle of the Corporators against the public. And you will be pleased

observe, that in such course you will be engaged in a bad cause, incur much public odium, and to no possible advantage; for, in the event of your conceding that which is legal, namely, the ancient customary fares, you will have an indisputable ground of action against the Corporators as your landlords, for having, by false representations, usurped power and lawless imposition, induced you to purchase what they had no right to sell—namely, the fares of a shilling a head from passengers across the ferry now in your occupancy. Besides, it is by no means improbable that if you approve yourselves lovers of justice and respecters of the rights of the public—that public will not desert you—for you will have well entitled yourselves to their support.

To proceed with my evidence. I have shewn you that in October, 1814, the Corporators took the opinion of their Recorder, on their legal right to increase their fares; that the opinion of the Recorder was decisive against such claim; and that notwithstanding such sufficient reason for honest and honorable men retracing their steps and returning to the ancient and customary charge, these Trustees of the people of Hull, in the succeeding January, doubled the fares in question! But did nothing transpire between the month of October, 1814, and that of January, 1815? Oh, yes! The Corporators of Hull were not satisfied with the opinion of their Recorder. Why then did they submit the case to him, if they meant not to be guided by his legal knowledge and solicited advice? Ask the pilfering urchin why he disregards the parental entreaty and the magisterial caution to leave the paths of dishonesty and endeavour to regain the character he has sacrificed. If he answer honestly he will tell you that it is easier to steal than to earn; and Shakspeare informs us that men are but children of a larger growth, nor does he tell us that Corporators are not men. *Ergo*—I must resume my statement. Our worthy “Magistrates,” in their anxiety to do nothing which might not be strictly legal, determined to make surety doubly sure, by taking the opinion of some eminent Barrister, in addition to that of their learned Recorder. They accordingly selected Mr. James Allan Park, the present learned judge, and in the month of November, 1814, forwarded that gentleman the case submitted to Mr. Osbourne, and his opinion thereon—together with the following additional statement:—

“It is to be observed, that from the great increase of the population of Hull, such boats as were formerly used, could not at this time accommodate passengers and carriages across

the Humber; and the boats and accommodations are now very different to what they can be supposed to have formerly been. The expences also of keeping up the boats and of sailors’ wages are greatly increased; and there can be no doubt that formerly horses, carriages, and passengers, were all conveyed across the river in one and the same boat. Now, there are three or four boats, and one of them provided with suitable accommodation purposely for passengers. It has always been understood that the ferryman could charge what he pleased for passengers in this boat, and he has for many years charged a higher rate for the people passing in that boat than was formerly paid for foot passengers. Such as go in the horse-boat, are only charged the ordinary fare. The Corporation have also, at an immense expence, provided a dock for the ferry-boats, with convenient landing-places for horses, carriages, and foot passengers.”

“Mr. Park is requested to peruse this case, with the papers which accompany it—as also the Recorder’s opinion—and to advise the Corporation whether they have now the power of increasing the fares or rates of passage across the Humber in both or either of the Hull and Barton ferry-boats.”

Such is the manner in which the Corporators submitted their case to Counsel, and I cannot but express a strong feeling on the evident attempt made by them in the above statement to mislead the gentleman to whom the case was forwarded, by exaggeration in many instances, and falsehood in others. That they failed in their object, will be rendered evident by a perusal of the following most able

OPINION:

“I have perused this case and all the papers which accompany it, together with the Recorder of Hull’s very learned opinion; and, although I own I had no doubt upon the subject, yet I thought it right to refresh my general memory upon the point of law, and therefore looked at several cases. The result of my investigation is, that I am of opinion that the Corporation have not the power of increasing the rates of passage on the ferry across the Humber, in either the Hull or Barton boats. If the passage be so great as is represented, and if larger boats, or more of them, or a greater number of hands be wanted, the increased passage will pay the additional boats, &c.; but, whether it do or not, this being an ancient ferry, it is not competent to the grantees or lessees of the tolls upon the ferry, to increase the same ad libitum as they shall think convenient. It seems to me upon the authority-cases, as well as of text writers, that a person so exacting a

sum larger than the ancient accustomed payment, would be liable to an indictment; and I agree with the Recorder, that the case of the King v. Roberts (4th Modern Reports, page 101) is to be considered as an authority in support of the position that the law is so, although, from the defects upon the record, in that particular case, the judgment was arrested. If the Corporation sustain any serious mischief from this, they must apply for relief elsewhere, though I doubt whether the Crown itself can alter this ancient payment; but undoubtedly they are not at all warranted in administering relief to themselves, by altering the ancient payment to larger sums upon their own authority.

J. A. PARK.

Lincoln's Inn Fields, 2nd Dec. 1814."

I am well aware that in affairs of the heart, it is nothing uncommon for the parties smitten to make up their minds first, and to ask council of their friends afterwards. If the advice given accord with the measures resolved upon, the enraptured twain exact the commendation of their acquaintance by their apparent prudence. If otherwise, they are not a whit the worse in their own opinions, and they love and live on until their disobedience is forgotten or forgiven.

But, in affairs of the head and in calculations of profit and loss, such course is seldom adopted. Men of the world usually argue that in a multitude of counsellors there is wisdom, and if there be a few sensible men who question the accuracy of this axiom, we must not look for them among the Corporators of Hull. They resort to a multitude of advisers—they give the gold of others for the opinions of wise men—they hesitate to act until they learn from men learned in the law, that in so acting they would act legally—and, when they have bought wisdom, they put on the fool's cap—jingle the bells of impudence—laugh at the lessons of wisdom—scoff at the obligations of law—and after due deliberation and on certain unknown considerations, resolve—willy-nilly, to get all they can—any how they may—from as many as they can affright into a submission to their unauthorised demands and extortionate impositions.

Having shewn you, Gentlemen, that you have hitherto been the dupes of ill-designing men, albeit magistrates—will you longer lend yourselves to the iniquity I have felt it my duty to expose and denounce? If you do, you will be something more than the mere instruments I am willing to suppose you. You will be parties to a shameful conspiracy

to defraud the public—and you will deserve to be considered principals in this matter, in common with those by whom I would fain hope you have been deceived into the supposition that your proceedings were in accordance with law, and your demands consistent with justice.

Having provided that your managing agent here should be in possession of this and the preceding publication, I am justified in assuming that your determination on this business will have been made known to him by this day week; and I therefore declare to you my determination of exercising my right of crossing to Barton and returning by the ferry in your steam-boat, on payment of the ancient and customary fare of one halfpenny, on Monday the 12th of September (instant)—on which occasion it is very probable you may have a boat load of customers on the same legal terms.

THE EDITOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PACKET.

SIR,—When Ministers determined to alter the timber duties, so that the revenue, the labouring poor, and the many owners of small vessels might not be sacrificed for the benefit of a few owners of large ships (adapted only to the American trade), you congratulated your readers on the beneficial effect this measure would have on the commercial interests of this town and port, by the increased impulse it would give to the Baltic trade, and the advantage the nation would derive from this additional means of employment for the labouring poor. What you then wrote, Sir, was written from the impulse of the moment; that is, it came from the heart. But it seems you were afterwards induced to sail on the other tack, preferring a head wind—for, in your very next publication, you unsaid all you had so correctly advanced on the occasion in question. Why was this? Had you found out that this advantage to the trade and commerce of the port of Hull was disagreeable to certain members of its Corporation—owners of a few large ships engaged in the American timber trade? Why, it was notorious that at that time the spirited Corporation of thriving Liverpool were opposing Ministers, because the measure respecting the timber duties would benefit Hull to the prejudice of its gigantic rival! Far be it from me to impute bribery to any portion of our most virtuous press—but I must be permitted to observe, that this same Corporation of Liverpool were extremely active in the matter,

and are known to have gone great lengths for the attainment of their object—in short, that their penny was always ready for the pennyworth of anybody. Still, Sir, the impression on my mind is, that you did not travel so far from home for the Corporate influence which was opposed to our port interests. The reason you assigned for tacking your "Packet" was, that the American trade gave more employment to sailors. If you advanced this fallacy, in ignorance, what can be your qualification for the situation of Editor to a Commercial newspaper? No ships out of this port employ so few hands, in proportion to the cargoes they bring, as the American traders. Indeed, it cannot be necessary I should inform you, that the number of men required to navigate a large ship is seldom if ever equally proportionate with that required by smaller vessels.

THE EDITOR.

—oo—

TO MR. GEORGE SCHONSWAR, MERCHANT,
HULL.—Letter 2.

"I must be cruel only to be kind ;
"Thus bad begins---and worse remains behind."

Shakspeare.

SIR,—You persist in holding a situation the duties of which you are unable to discharge. You are content to be an unproductive placeman—a sinecurist—a pensioner on the post-office and the public. On what consideration are you so content? Under what influence do you succumb, that you wilfully-provoke the bad opinion and condemnation of your too-confiding constituents? Are your Whig friends fearful lest in the event of your accepting the Chiltern Hundreds, the Tories would secure the misrepresentation of the Reformers of Hull? Is there an undue anxiety on the part of your said Whig friends to avert (for themselves) the expence of a contested struggle for the representation of this borough? I suspect that some such personal considerations may have influenced you to dare the contumely of which you appear so reckless. Ah! Sir, it was among those liberal supporters you sought your dupes—your victims. They listened to your political liberalities from the hustings, and thought you would make an admirable Member of Parliament. They listened to your personal supplications, and (having allowed themselves to be drawn of their spare thousands) they have found you a most unprofitable acquaintance. Why, Sir, it occurs to me that you must have had some knowledge of your circumstances at the period you were so loudly declaiming to your constituents against the abuses of the state—that you knew our pecuniary incompetency as a member of the Commer-

cial Exchange, when you called upon the burgesses of Hull to report your competency as a member of the Imperial Parliament. Did it never occur to you, Sir, when canvassing for votes, that your success in that respect might facilitate your great after-operation—the canvassing for loans?

Why, Sir, you know that you could not defray your electioneering expences without a loan of £2000 from the Beverley bank, for that purpose. You know that such loan was refused you without ample security; and you also know that you only obtained such sum on the bond of two respectable gentlemen—your political friends. Should your memory fail you on these particulars, I can refer you to the gentlemen in question for a confirmation of my statement. Their memory will not fail them—so long as two thousand pounds are worth two thousand farthings, and much longer than prudent men should trust an unprincipled Member of Parliament.

The charges I make against you, are, 1st, that you knew yourself insolvent when you asked the burgesses of Hull to send you to the House of Commons as their representative 2ndly, that you deserted from the camp of the Tories, in order that you might ensure from the grateful Whigs such personal loans as your necessities required, and as your modesty might permit you to solicit.

As "coming events oft cast their shadows before them," so the transaction with the Beverley bank will go far to establish the former of these positions, although it by no means depends on the evidence of that single fact; and as to the latter, how otherwise are we to account for your sudden political conversion, and your immediately subsequent patronage of your newly acquired allies—the monied Reformers of this town? Nor is it a circumstance altogether satisfactory to your loan-creditors, that until they were all securely entrapped, each fancied himself the solitary unfortunate. Your legal agents were too cautious in their proceedings to tell D. when they applied to him for his thousands, that they had previously and with success enmeshed A. B. and C. in the same net!

But all the particulars of these and other circumstances illustrative of the peculiar motives by which you have been actuated must shortly be detailed. It is a strange history—yours; and strongly calculated to read a valuable lesson of experience alike to merchants and politicians.

And why not to shopkeepers and widows? Your Carr-lane creditor is still your creditor!

"Oh, shame! where is thy blush?"

I have reason to believe that Mrs. Schonswar considers this case one of much less cruelty than it has appeared to me and many others; for, in answer to an urgent applica-

tion of the widow, a note was forwarded in seeming exculpation of yourself from the charge preferred in this matter. That communication seems to me to be a most extraordinary production. The first questionable expression therein is to this effect: "You must fare as others fare, and I hope you may get it." Assuredly there is nothing original in this unpoetical idea—for, it is at best a parody of the vulgar cant phrase now becoming obsolete—"I wish you may get it!" Mrs. S. then reminds your unfortunate creditor that "her previous claims have always been discharged immediately on application having been made for the money." Now what is the fact? There has been but one previous account between you: its amount £8; and when payment was required, you took a fortnight's further time in considering the propriety, or perhaps the policy, of liquidating the demand. Thus it appears, that in Mrs. Schonswar's edition of Johnson, the word "always" means—"once;" and "immediately"—"in a fortnight."

But the most extraordinary particular in this curious piece of documentary evidence, is that portion of it where the creditor's lady attempts to console the debtor. A most ingenious attempt it is, and would puzzle wiser heads than mine to guess it. The widow is desired to "think herself fortunate that she sustains no greater loss than £5 16s. 8d."—which might possibly mean, that she is to congratulate herself on not having lent the Member for Hull two or three thousand pounds! And is not this poor woman's loss as much to her, Sir, as the thousands of those you and I could name among the sufferers in your affair? Yet there is one case among those of your wholesale creditors which is to the full as cruel as that of the agent for the sale of the Anti-mill flour—and I fear yet more disastrous and fatal in its results. To confine myself, however, to the present subject, I return to your lady's most charitable attempt to console your creditor *in petto*:—"It is well your claim is not of larger amount—but really the Anti-mill flour has been so bad that we could hardly use it! If it had been better, we should certainly have been better customers, and your loss would have been heavier!"

Seriously, Sir, if I were not credibly informed that your wife's mother is a lady of immense fortune, I should have said of this extraordinary note—"this is the method of madness!"

May I ask you, as one of the Trustees of the Anti-mill Society, whether you can inform me if the Carr-lane agent has not forwarded a letter to the Committee, thanking them for the good turn their bad flour has served in her case, and advising that, as you are no longer a customer of her's, they may safely resume the supply of a usable commodity? If, Sir, the widow should have occasion to write the history of her misfortune to a relation at Paris, have you any objection to working out a small part of your debt by franking her letters to Dover, as M. P. for Hull?

THE EDITOR.

P. S. This is only my second letter to you. You may avert No. 3, if you please—by acting justly.

A N O D E.

SOME years ago 'twas heresy to say
That aught was rotten in our British state;
What time the celebrated PRIT held sway,
Or even in the reign of CASTLEREAGH—
Two glorious wights, in sooth, so good and great!

Small bards like me, who ventured to outpour
Their bilious ruminations o'er the land,
Were sorely maul'd in many a deadly scour,
Or threaten'd with a hempen cord each hour,
Adjusted by some ruthless ruffian's hand.

And dungeons then were very much in vogue,
As doubtless serving excellently well
To hide each scribe these statesmen branded rogue,
Or swore he'd broken the whole decalogue,
And in no better place was fit to dwell;

So there with bolt, and bar, and yermine vile,
They shut him close, where sun had never shone,
And play'd fantastic tricks themselves, the while,
That caus'd us oft to weep, and seldom smile;
Yet all, good lack! to fence our Monarch's throne!

I was not with the fallen or the dead,
Yet mourn'd not deeply these same "heav'n-born men,"
Or cry'd with sorrow when their spirits fled,
But musing inly, to myself I said,

"Pray Heav'n the brace may ne'er come back again!"

Sed tempora mutantur—laud the gods!

A brighter prospect dawns upon us now!

The Boroughmongers' fabric trembling nods,

And every rat within it, outward plods

By prescience warn'd that soon 'twill lie full low.

HULL, August 30th, 1831.

W. N.

—00—

TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, AND
THE WORSHIPFUL THE ALDERMEN OF THE
TOWN, AND COUNTY OF THE TOWN, OF
KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.—*Letter 3.*

"Handsome they who handsome do."

Old Saying.

They only are truly worshipful whose actions are honest and honorable.

Editorial translation.

SIRS,—The consequence of your neglect in respect of the completion of the dock that ought to be, at the extremity of Queen-street, has been in many particulars most inconvenient to the public. In the first place the Ferry and Market-boats are compelled to land their passengers and goods on the Dock Company's quays, and to moor their vessels in the Dock Company's basin. The owners of those vessels are thus under the necessity of paying the Dock Company a weekly sum, (amounting in the aggregate to several hundred pounds annually) as in commutation of charges which would otherwise be of great personal annoyance to the passengers.

And here let me call your attention to a fact which happens to have fallen within my own observation, and which appears to me a needless endangering of the safety, and possibly the lives of individuals arriving in Hull at about flood. On such occasions, it is by no means unusual for timid and aged females and children to have to cross from the vessel to the quay by a plank of not more than

fourteen or fifteen inches in width, for a distance of from twelve to twenty feet. They manage these matters very differently in Liverpool, and it would not discredit your body, if you were occasionally to expend a few hundreds of your Corporate thousands in providing for the safety, if not the accommodation, of those whose visits to the port and custom to the town are more or less essential to its support and well-being.

But why do I waste my time in appealing to the liberality of men devoid of all sense of common justice, and indifferent to the imperative claims of legal obligations? Build the dock you are directed to build by the Act of Parliament which gave you forty or fifty thousand pounds' worth of land for the consideration of £2400—on condition that you made certain improvements in the town and port of Hull for the benefit of the public—and of which improvements the building of this dock was one. Begin to evidence that you are not without some sense of propriety nor utterly devoid of all feeling of shame—and one may then hope that reasons and arguments might be submitted to you with some chance of their consideration, if not their acceptance.

But I must proceed with the voluminous items on the debit side of your account in my Black Book or Hull Corporate Ledger.

On all ships leaving the port, you make a charge professedly for the maintenance of the jetties which have long been removed. Now, if you do not extend some such protection at the entrance of the harbour, the river will, ere long, be stopped up with mud. If this result be within your contemplation, and if, as I take it, your approval be fairly conclusive from your neglect of preventive measures—take off this charge, and eat and drink the less by the amount of this one imposition.

Heavy complaints are made to me of the careless or partial manner in which property is rated in this town. It is said, for instance, that as the waste land of the external parts of parishes is built upon, the increase of rateable property is productive of no decrease in the rates upon those rated prior to such addition of inhabited houses. Is this the result of carelessness—or is it an instance of Corporate partiality? Are any of your liveried lacqueys builders or lessees of the ground sub-leased on building conditions? You will say I am illiberally suspicious. But, Sirs, when the public shall have been shewn to how great an extent, and for how long a period, they have been your dupes, *they* will not deem me so. You may perhaps be aware of the difference of laughing with and laughing at an individual; if so, you will understand me when I say that I write *to you* but *for them*; and I am willing that you should esteem me illiberally suspicious of unjust men and oppressive associations—Corporate or otherwise. Your bad word will be to me a certificate of desert as a servant of those you have wronged; and, if I mistake not, the Hull public will deem that certificate the best test of qualification I could produce for their service and support.

THE EDITOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,---I am glad that you have undertaken to expose certain abuses in the Hull Court of Requests, because I hope the exposure may be the means of doing away with them. This cannot be expected all at once, but you have commenced the attack with spirit; and perseverance will ensure a glorious victory. The anomalies in this court have long been glaringly manifest to all those who have ever been compelled to use it as a medium for recovering their just debts, as well as to those who have the said debts to discharge;---both parties being invariably imposed upon, and (there not having hitherto been any remedy) both of necessity suffering in silence.

My object in addressing you is to call your attention to a striking deficiency in the original constitution of the court, peculiar, I am informed, to Hull alone. It is this:---No person can recover the balance of an account, when the first debt exceeded *five pounds*; so that if A is in B's books for eight or nine pounds, and pays, on account, eight or nine shillings, B may whistle for the remainder, as the court has no power to interfere*. I do not blame the commissioners, or their clerk, for this, but mind me, it is one of those things which need amendment.

You sympathize chiefly with the poor, but there are others, not exactly so called, who are the greatest sufferers. In this class may be comprehended all small tradesmen, and particularly grocers. Is it not notorious that many scoundrels refuse to pay their lawful debts, because their creditors are unable to sue them in the court? But people will tell you there is the *Venire*: so there is, but its influence extends no farther than Hull, and therefore a debt contracted in Sculcoates may be recovered in the moon, or elsewhere; the *Venire* can do nothing. I think it may be laid down as an axiom that, *no man should purchase articles for which he is unlikely now, or afterwards, to pay*. Admitting this, you will likewise, I presume, admit the existence of great numbers of persons who never once think of paying at all, provided they can obtain the things they want without. Hence a Court of Equity is absolutely necessary, but its interference should be obtainable on moderate terms. The court at Hull seems designed principally for the benefit of Mr. Phillips, and the widow of the late Mr. Alderson. There are fees without end. Send a rascal to prison, you have to pay; set him at liberty, you have to pay likewise.

I am, Sir, &c.

W. N.

HULL, 25th August, 1831.

MEM:---I am quite aware of the impartial manner in which this Act perpetrates its mischief---*---like on Creditor and Debtor*. It is a disgrace to Hull and to Parliament. How and why it was procured I shall hereafter explain.

What an infamous arrangement it is that the widow of the late Clerk should have an annuity out of the fees wrung from the wretched debtors! The worst of pensioners are they who are pensioned on poverty! And if Mr. Phillips can spare one hundred and fifty or two hundred pounds a-year from his receipts, let him reduce the fees that the unwretched may benefit by his extraordinary sacrifice. Who sanctioned this iniquity?

ED.

* This paragraph is somewhat obscure---it not stating whether the difference between the amount paid into court and that sued for (say £5)---or the difference between the amount sued for and the bona fide and original debt, be irrecoverable. If the party owing £8 be sued for £5 in this court, whatever the result, his Creditor can never sue him for the difference of £3. If the Debtor owe £5, and pay the Creditor 10s.---the latter can sue the former in this Court for £4 10s. Supposing, that on such suit, the Court awards payment of the amount in weekly sums of five shillings, and that such payment is actually made for the first week and neglected in the second, the Court can then, on application, order execution either against the person or the goods of the defaulter, at the option of his Creditor. After this, if the execution be not sufficiently productive, the Creditor has no remedy.

ED.

---00---

TO MR. THOMAS RODMELL, POST-MASTER.

"Reform it altogether."

Shakspeare.

SIR,---In a commercial town such as this, nothing is of higher importance to the community than the diligent discharge of the duties of your office. Complaints are made on all hands against the late delivery of letters, and especially those by the London mail, and it is alleged that the only chance of securing a more early receipt of letters is that of *figging* your deputy. If an individual having an office but three or four hundred yards of your office cannot calculate on the delivery of letters which arrive at half-past four in the

afternoon, before seven or half-past seven o'clock in the evening—and that such is the fact I am well aware—there can be little difficulty in arriving at the conclusion, that the Post-office business is sadly mismanaged. I could enter on other particulars of delay and negligence, if this were in sufficient to my purpose; and indeed, it is by no means surprising that the officers of your department are inefficient, and the commercial interests of the town of Hull prejudiced greatly by such cause of complaint, when the principle on which the establishment is formed, and the business of that establishment conducted, is duly considered.

In the first place, Sir, you are understood to be in the enjoyment of a net income of £800 per annum. Of course you are above your business*, and discharge your duties by deputy. This, in itself, is a great evil—but it is a fungus of that rotten tree which has so long cumbered the ground, and which it may reasonably be hoped will speedily be removed. In the next place, you have the appointment of the clerks and deliverers—paying them such salaries as you think proper out of your gross receipts, and having a personal interest in a reduced expenditure in such respect. Thus, if there be four deliveries where there should be eight, however prejudicial this arrangement might be to the public interests, it would be beneficial to you personally—inasmuch as you would have to disburse the amount of four instead of eight salaries, as the charge to you for delivery of letters to the public. If it is disadvantageous to you that the duties of your office be efficiently discharged—as a matter of course, the commercial interests must suffer. But, Sir, for what are we charged postage? Is it that we may receive our letters when you please—when it suits your convenience—or when permitted by your parsimonious arrangements? Is it not, rather, that we may be assured of their receipt at the earliest possible moment? If you will enquire of the Duke of Richmond, or of Sir Francis Freeling, you will find such to be the engagement and determination of Government. And are the liberal views of the Postmaster-General to be thwarted by the interested mismanagement of a provincial establishment?

The commercial prosperity of the port of Hull demands a treble delivery of letters daily, and that each delivery shall be completed within an hour, or at the utmost an hour and a half. If you think otherwise—or if you feel otherwise—your thoughts and feelings must be corrected by an appeal to superior authority. If you affect to believe this improvement impracticable, there will be no difficulty in undeceiving you.

Your parsimony must not be permitted to prejudice the public interests. The number of deliverers must be doubled—or if need be, trebled. The system of *figging* must be relinquished. And lastly, the duties of your establishment must be entrusted to sober servants—lest their activity be exhibited in antics, and their industry evidenced by their blunders.

THE EDITOR.

* Since this letter was placed in the hands of the compositor, I have been informed that our Post-master is an exception to this rule, being himself actively engaged in the superintendence of the business of the establishment. Hence, I have a right to conclude, that he is well aware not only of the abuses complained of but also of their causes. Few sober men will suppose a drunkard competent to the discharge of duties requiring equal circumspection and civility; and if Mr. R. does not know when a man is drunk, he cannot be supposed competent to the appointment of public servants to offices of great importance and trust. Ed.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—In your No. 2, I am glad to find your observations on the 27th article of the Savings' Banks. As an individual, I deposited my small sums on the faith of that article; and I must say I have been greatly disappointed by the intended application, which is by no means in accordance with the intentions of those who framed the said laws. "Happy is that man that expecteth nothing, for he shall not be disappointed."

That the Directors may not deceive me again, I have withdrawn my small sum; thinking, if they will break faith with me in this article, (my polar star) they will, by degrees, draw me on by their promises, and in the long run attach my little sum to that overwhelming Leviathan which will eventually swallow the property and industry of the whole nation. In fact, I now conceive Savings' Banks to have been originated for the purpose of drawing from the pocket of the industrious poor, the hard earnings they save by parsimony and abstinence from the luxuries of life. If these hints are of any use, apply them as you think proper—it being my wish that you may succeed in exposing those individuals, who, "dressed in a little brief authority, play such fantastic tricks before high Heaven as make the Angels weep."

With respect, I am your's,

RECTIFIER.

MEM:—The late Mr. Rose, in suggesting the establishment of Savings' Banks, hoped to support existing abuses by impressing on the minds of small capitalists the danger of any change which might endanger their little property. Their real effect is to shift the National debt from the richer to the lower orders of the community. With respect to the proposed measure, I shall have some further observations in my next. I impute not criminality to its originators—but it is unjust in its operation, and may be prejudicial in its effect. Ed.

MY NOTE-CASE.

A's postscript has been mentally anticipated; and some such plan will shortly be proposed. Ed.

A correspondent (whose second favor I beg thankfully to acknowledge) will perceive that I know how to avail myself of intelligent suggestions. Postponement precedes investigation, and must not be taken as implying rejection or even indifference. This to intelligent correspondents. Ed.

A. C. N. is requested to favor me with an interview at No. 9, Bourne-street, or to oblige me with his name and address. His information is important, but I must be assured of its authenticity. Can he produce the female to whom he refers in one of his notes? Ed.

I have received the "Myton Act," and will give it my attentive consideration. But I do not need the copy forwarded, as I find it among the Statutes collected by Mr. Woolley. Ed.

The great sale of the Portfolio renders the service to subscribers at once impracticable and unnecessary. The former, on account of the trouble of publication, the latter, because the uncertainty of obtaining copies can be prevented without the probability of loss, by the working of a few hundred additional papers. Besides, the opening of twopenny accounts to a number of subscribers, would cost more, in expence and trouble, than the profit from their custom. Ed.

STEPHEN'S communication is unavoidably postponed until next week. Ed.

If a poetical correspondent will so far pardon my non-insertion of his versified communication: as to favor me with his complaint in simple prose, I think the sectarian injustice to which he refers will need exposure in order to correction. I have not rejected his Parnassian lucubration without an attempt to render it admissible, but I have in vain exerted my ingenuity "to make a purse of a sow's ear." Ed.

A late resident in Burton* is informed, that I cannot immediately attend to his suggestions, being fully pre-occupied with Hull matters for some months. When, however, opportunity offers, I shall be glad to be further informed of the misapplication of fines—the truck system of imposition—and the Court of Requests' illegalities. Ed.

The Commissioners of Pilots have not yet made any provision for the widow and orphans of poor Robinson! Do they mean, by this injustice to the dead, to besmear their Commodore with a silkwind praise? It would better become the persecutor of the deceased to originate a subscription for those bequeathed to the protection of the public by one who seems to have the good word of every body, but the man who drove him to desperation and suicide. Will not the Commissioners apportion some stipendiary assistance for the maintenance of the little orphans? Let them refer to the Pilot Act (39, 40 Geo. III. c. 10. s. 32.) They should have means, and they will there find authority for such act of justice and humanity. Ed.

JOSEPH NOBLE, PRINTER, HULL.

THE **Hull Portfolio;**

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF AN EDITOR.

—❖❖❖—
“*Bonis nocet quisquis pepercit malis.*”—CICERO.
HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING, BY JOSEPH NOBLE,
(*opposite the High Church*) MARKET-PLACE, HULL.

Vol. 1.—No. 4.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1831.

Twopence.

In consequence of the continued demand for the first number of this work, it will be reprinted as speedily as possible, and may be procured at the office of publication, on the 16th instant.

A few copies of Nos. 2 and 3 are still on sale; but, as it is very improbable they can be reprinted, those intending to keep complete sets should make immediate application.

TO ADVERTISERS.—*The Portfolio commanding a much greater sale than any of the Hull newspapers (or than any of them ever had—or are ever likely to have) those who desire publicity will perceive the advantage of availing themselves of so superior a medium of circulation—the number printed Weekly being TWO THOUSAND!!!*

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From six to ten lines. 0 7 0

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Paragraph puffs, which disgrace the regular press, will be inadmissible to the pages of the Portfolio, as generally covering the quackery of advertisers with the fallacious semblance of Editorial opinion and approval.

**TO MR. GEORGE SCHONSWAR, MERCHANT,
HULL.**—*Letter 3.*

SIR,—I congratulate you on your very creditable discharge of the debt of the poor widow, on Wednesday last. Every man is liable to error, but fools only persist in such error, in defiance of propriety and justice. I have now some hope that you will speedily return that which your representatives entrusted to you, and which you can no longer advantageously (that is, to their advantage) retain. ED.

**TO MR. PARKINSON, BOOK-KEEPER TO THE
LESSEES OF THE HULL AND BARTON FERRY,
WATERSIDE INN, BARTON.**

SIR,—I forward herewith Nos. 2 and 3 of the Portfolio, in each of which publications there is a letter addressed by me to your employers, and which I request you will forward without delay, in order to your timely receipt of such directions as they may think it expedient to give for the government of yourself and others in the matter therein discussed. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

9, Bourn-street, Sculcoates, JAMES ACLAND,
5th September, 1831. Editor of the Portfolio.

**TO THOSE IN THE EMPLOY OF THE LESSEES
OF THE HULL AND BARTON FERRY.**

FRIENDS,—I call you friends, because I suppose you to be honest men, and because I am sure that if you are honest men, you must be the friends of the advocate of honest measures. But you are the servants of the lessees of the ferry, and it in such respect that I would more particularly address you. In the first place, I beg of you to read the preceding letter—from me to Mr. Parkinson—and you will thence collect that I have given your employers a fair opportunity of directing you to act legally in the matter, about to be put at issue between them and the public. I am therefore justified in expecting, that you will receive the necessary instructions from your employers as to your conduct on Monday next; and although I have no right to dictate either to them or to you, I shall take leave to offer you a little information, to give you some advice, and seriously to caution you against an illegal act, whereby, otherwise, you might bring yourselves into great trouble, and your families into considerable distress. In contending for the right of the public to cross and return by the ferry (on which you are employed) at the ancient customary charge of a halfpenny, I can have no personal feelings of ill-will towards individuals who are personally unknown

to me. The question is one of public right, and not of private feeling or personal animosity—unless it shall be made so by you or your employers, and in which case, I, at least, shall be free from censure.

Your masters have, for several years, extorted from the public a sum of money for crossing the ferry, for which they have no legal warrant. I am about to oppose such extortion by tendering the ancient customary charge. If your employers are the men of sense I take them to be, they will avow themselves to have been hitherto deluded by those of whom they rent the ferry, and, taking the legal fare, sue the lessors for the loss sustained in consequence of their misrepresentation of the right of the public. In such case, I shall not commit myself, or the cause of which I am the advocate, by submitting to any payment or consideration beyond the halfpenny. My name and address shall be tendered you, and your employers may take such measures as the law may afford, for the recovery of their imaginary claim to the difference between my payment and their demand. Of one thing they may be assured, that I shall be quite as ready to meet them, as they to confront me, in any court of law they may select for the decision of this important question. If they should think proper to appeal to the Corporate lessors as magisterial judges of the matter in which they are so deeply concerned, I must even submit—but it will be with the firm determination of appealing from the decision (which, of course, I may very safely anticipate) to a superior court—there, before the Judges of the land, to publish the demerits of as corrupt a Corporation as exists in this land of Corporate corruption.

But I have been informed that it has long been your practice (of course under the authority of your employers) on occasions of resistance to your outrageous imposition, to help yourselves, in the highway-robbery-fashion, to any article of the dress or portion of the luggage of the impudent fellow who has dared to resist your demand! My friends, you are in the wrong box when guilty of extortion; but beware of felony! And mind, I would not have you deceive yourselves on this vital point. If you take my hat, or coat, or stick, or glove—I seriously warn you that such act would clearly be felonious, and the perpetrator subject to transportation on conviction. Should you proceed to such extremity, your apprehension for the robbery would be as certain as that this letter is printed for your caution. Nor could the Magistrate help you out of such scrape without getting into a

woful condition himself for the sole purpose of enabling you *temporarily* to evade justice. And I am greatly mistaken if the Hull Corporators be not even more anxious to keep out of the Courts of King's Bench and Chancery than I am to drag them into those tests of Corporate integrity.

You may perhaps reply to my caution, that you must obey the orders of your employers. Would you commit murder at their bidding? Assuredly not, for your servility cannot extend to crime—your obligation cannot authorise acts which are illegal. Would you commit a theft at their bidding? You would, were you to take my hat; and the responsibility of the master cannot screen the servant from the legal consequences of crime. Your employers know this, and if they should be so destitute of proper feeling, as to direct that you act criminally in furtherance of their extortionate demands and under the fear of losing your situations, they must be less than men—purchasing the liberty and character, with the services of their servants, or, which is the same thing, sacrificing all that is dear to you, for that which is more dear to them—money!

Now, I am well aware that you have, over and over again, taken possession of the property of those passengers who refused to pay you your illegal demand. I know that you have grossly insulted females, and falsely imprisoned those of your own sex for the same reason, and in the latter case, without daring to go before a Magistrate—because you shrewdly guessed the inconvenience and impolicy of such a course. But, I am willing to assume that you have hitherto acted in ignorance, and I am determined you shall no longer be afforded such plea in your defence. The late Recorder of Hull, and the present Judge Park, have expressed themselves decidedly of opinion that the fare of this ferry cannot be legally raised above the ancient and customary fare. This ancient and customary fare the Corporators have themselves stated in their instructions, to the above learned gentlemen, to be one halfpenny. He who pays more does so to please himself; I will not, under present circumstances, and my motive in so resolving is to resist imposition, and to protect the rights of the community.

You have before asked, "What! do you think we can afford to carry you to Barton and back for a halfpenny?" That is the affair of your masters. If they have made a bad bargain—is it my fault? As well may they tax the householders of Sculcoates for the repair of their paddles. But, if I were compelled to answer your question, I should have no hesitation in admitting that, looking to the present

passage across the ferry, one halfpenny per passenger would not pay the expences of the steam boat; but those expences are too great by £700. per annum, and the passengers less numerous than they would be, at the ancient customary fare, by (possibly) several hundreds daily. I am even willing to admit that three or four pence per head were a reasonable charge by the steam boat, and I believe it would be the charge if the ferry were not used as private property. I recollect that the fare from Liverpool to Tranmere and Birkenhead is three pence, and the boats leave those places every quarter of an hour; and, comparing the distances, four pence would appear to me to be a reasonable charge from Hull to Barton, or from Barton to Hull. Yet will I not pay more than the halfpenny, until I shall find it otherwise set forth, "in the bond." You will ask me, why? I answer, because the terms of the contract are to the specific effect—1st, That so long as you charge no more than the ancient customary fare, you shall have the monopoly of the ferry; 2ndly, That so long as you claim the monopoly of the ferry, you shall charge no more than the ancient customary fare. Now, "the monopoly" and "the fare of one halfpenny" (there and back) are inseparable. The public cannot separate them without consent of the beneficial occupant; neither can the latter without the consent of the former. What greater right have you then to claim and exercise the monopoly, than have the public to insist upon the ancient fare? If then you persist in the monopoly, I persist in its contingent counterpart, the ancient fare. When you (or those for whom you act or those whom they represent) relinquish the monopoly, then will I, for one, as strenuously contend that fourpence is a reasonable charge across the ferry by the steamer, as I do now that one penny is an extortion, even in the horse-boat. And here I wish to observe—that I know not of any right in the lessees to charge more for the passage in one boat than in another, though the Trinity yacht were one and a mud barge the other. Neither the charter nor the lease recognize any such distinction; the boats are not the subject of the charter or the lease; the ferry alone is that subject—and whatever boats traverse that ferry, as a ferry, are ferry boats, and compellable to receive passengers at the one invariable ancient and customary charge.

It has been suggested to me, that you may possibly run the encounter by refusing to take on board such passengers as you may fancy; several other hints have been forwarded

me; and the only further observation I shall make on this subject, is, that I am provided on all hands, and that those who will not convey passengers on this the King's highway, after having undertaken to do so, shall cease their enjoyment of the conditional monopoly, the right to which can only be admitted so long as there shall be free-ferriage at the ancient and customary charge.

Your well wisher, THE EDITOR.

TO THE PEOPLE OF HULL.

FRIENDS,—On Monday next, I purpose crossing the ferry to Barton and back by the steamer which leaves at ten o'clock in the forenoon. I shall not pay more than the ancient and customary fare of one halfpenny, and I hope those who may desire to accompany me in such excursion, will do so with a determination to enforce the legal fares, and to maintain the unquestionable rights of the public—so long invaded by the Corporators of Hull, for the mere purpose of swelling that enormous income in which the great body of the burghesses have no participation. I have further to request that such as feel disposed to put this important question to issue on the above occasion will favour me with their names and addresses at the office of publication in the course of this day or before nine o'clock on Monday. At the same time I beg it may be clearly understood that it is not essentially necessary that I should be accompanied by numbers. The justice of the cause is sufficient to ensure a triumph—and if no one think proper to embark with me in the good boat "Principle," I shall launch into the current of Free trade with a crew of "one," nor fear a safe and certain arrival at the port of my destination.

Your's, sincerely,

THE EDITOR.

TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, AND
THE WORSHIPFUL THE ALDERMEN OF THE
TOWN, AND COUNTY OF THE TOWN, OF
KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.—Letter 4.

"Grand placer no escotar y comer."

Spanish proverb.

How delightful a costless gorge!

Free translation.

SIRS,—In the fear that your digestion has not been equal to your appetites, pampered as they have been this week, I abstain from making any appeal to your distempered

brains. I write to be understood, and am well aware that so recently subsequent to the Corporate Coronation guzzle, I should have much more chance of making myself intelligible to the hundreds who on Thursday last dined with Duke Humphrey and went to bed supperless, than to the select thirteen who stuffed themselves to repletion from the venison and so forth, purchased (the buck at £10 and half a guinea to the steward) with the funds held by them in trust for the abused burgesses of this town. You will, therefore, excuse my abstinence from argument on the present occasion, for I hold it to be folly to "throw pearls before swine," as I do that it is madness in rational beings to reduce themselves to the level of the irrational beast, and criminal to do so with the means and at the unauthorised expence of others.

—oo—
THE EDITOR.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL BROTHERHOOD OF THE
TRINITY-HOUSE OF KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.

Letter 2.

"Acquérir méchamment, dépenser sottement."

Ill got and ill spent.

French adage

Free translation.

SIRS,—You too have had your buck with its appendages and consequences. You have degraded yourselves by stuffing and swilling your o'erburthened bodies out of the sixpences of the poor sailors of the port of Hull. The pauper is an honorable man, receiving the pittance doled out to him from the relief fund contributed by his less miserable fellows; but you sponge upon the hard earned and ill spared receipts of the honest mariner, helping yourselves from the purse of charity, and consuming the provision which should be sacredly reserved for the hungry and the unprovided. It were infinitely more creditable to be a pauper, than the member of a Corporation fattening themselves on the starvation of more deserving individuals. The luxury of drunkenness is a beastly indulgence, and when indulged at the expence of the poor and the sacrifice of the obligations of humanity and justice, it is not less dishonest than disgusting. The feastings of your Brotherhood of the Holy Trinity may excite the envy of fools; but the wise man will look beyond the moment of selfish gratification, and, holding himself to be an accountable being, will regard your unchristian conduct with contempt

and derision. For myself, I pity you; and, when you shall have recovered yourselves from the effects of high-seasoned solids and intoxicating liquids, I will tell you more of my mind in this matter than I believe you yet capable of comprehending.

THE EDITOR.

—oo—
TO A CERTAIN WORSHIPFUL ALDERMAN,

Who, for the present, shall be nameless.

SIR,—The account forwarded to me of a transaction in which you are said recently to have been concerned, is of so roguish a description, that, despite the respectability of my informant, I can scarcely credit his statement: I shall, therefore, content myself, for the present, with a general hint or two, sufficient to enable the individual it most concerns to recognise the allusion, and to favor me with the earliest possible opportunity of authoritatively contradicting the gross and scandalous rumour. Thus then runs the story:—The Corporation (by a Committee of its Aldermen) are erecting a jetty (or piece of a jetty) at the entrance to the harbour. One of that Committee imports a quantity of wood—not of first quality—nor of middling quality; but of seconds as it is termed, or of thirds as it might more correctly be termed. This wood the Alderman offers to a timber-merchant, who declares that the quality is inferior to that which, in the ordinary way of business, he should purchase. He is, however, persuaded to strike the bargain, in consequence of an *insinuation* by the Alderman, that the Committee may take it off his hands, at an increased price, for the harbour jetty! The wood thus sold to the merchant, is said to have been afterwards bought by the Committee.

If this were true, Sir, you would deservedly lose *caste* among honorable men; and as I cannot imagine the possibility of an Alderman of Hull turning his Corporate authority to purposes of private emolument, I am bound to disbelieve this vicious calumny. I therefore call upon you, Sir, to give it the early and open contradiction which is due not less to your own respectability than to your elevated station in society. Should your bashfulness prevent you from coming boldly forward in self vindication, I shall on Saturday resume this correspondence, with a view to prevent the ill effects this letter might otherwise be cal-

culated to entail on those of your worshipful brethren to whom the circumstances narrated might erroneously be supposed to apply.

THE EDITOR.

P. S. QUERY 1. *At what price did you sell the said timber?* QUERY 2. *What price did the Committee give for it?* QUERY 3. *What was its real value?* Ed.

—oo—

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE CORPORATORS OF THE TRINITY-HOUSE, THE WORSHIPFUL THE CORPORATORS OF THE TOWN AND COUNTY, AND TO OTHERS THE UNWORSHIPFUL MEMBERS OF THE TREBLY-CORPORATE-CORPORATION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE PILOT ACT.

SIRS,—You have recently elected into your body a gentleman of the name of Chilton, a partner as I am given to understand in a respectable mercantile firm in this town. To that individual personally, it is impossible I can have any objection to urge, or I should have addressed this letter to him rather than to your body.

You are incorporated for the benefit of the commercial interests of Hull. You elect each other into office; and, one might reasonably expect, that you would, on the occasion of a vacancy, select the individual most competent to the discharge of the duties of the office; that is, most conversant with the mercantile and shipping interests of this port. In electing Mr. Chilton, you have acted otherwise, for it is not many months since that gentleman came from Whitby to settle in Hull—whilst it is notorious that you have not been compelled to select a comparative stranger from an ability to fill up the vacancy with the name of a Hull merchant of many years standing, and of equal respectability, character, and intelligence with your new Commissioner.

This is the way you form your board—supporting a spirit of commercial sectarianism and insulting the great body of Hull merchants. I shall shortly trouble you with a letter on the subject of your legislation and the absurdities of certain of your regulations.

THE EDITOR.

HULL CHARITIES.

1. Why is £200 per annum of this charity squandered upon the Rev. Kingsman Baskett, when the greater portion of it might be more charitably disposed of among the inmates of the establishment, and when equally competent masters might be found who would be much more grateful for a salary of half the amount? I say nothing of the mansion and grounds—nor of the *et ceteras*, but I believe the Lecturer of Lister's Hospital has only a house and £2 per annum?

2. It is reported that a decayed merchant and most deserving man, who a few years ago was admitted to this charity, and who died not long since, being greatly afflicted with deafness, solicited the Reverend Master's permission to occupy a more advantageous seat in the chapel, in order to his participation in the religious services of the sabbath. Why did the consumer of £200 per annum from the funds of this charity refuse the poor petitioner's reasonable prayer—and insist upon his sitting where he could not hear?

3. Is there not a coachman in this charity—was he not in the service of the Alderman who gave him the room—is he not still the coachman of his worshipful benefactor—does he receive the same wages now as formerly—or does his magisterial master sack the difference, thus reducing his charge of “servants’ wages” by the amount of this coachman’s income from the Charter-House charity?

4. Why is the weekly allowance to the inmates of Gregg’s Hospital, in Postern-gate, but two shillings? Ought not Mr. Buttery’s benefaction in 1779, to have increased that pittance?

THE EDITOR.

—oo—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—I feel great pleasure in seeing a publication amongst us, the object of which is to give us a peep behind the curtain, which has so long hidden from our view so many shameful abuses, the exposure of which our other local publications have declined. But really, Mr. Editor, you are a very valiant man; for who is there that dreams of civic preferment and its necessary and accompanying portion of veal and venison pasty, that durst, with such furious blows, attack the sanctum sanctorum of turtle soup and wisdom? You have not, as I presume, any ambition for the golden chain, or I would have reminded you of the recipe of Sir

Pertinax Mac Sycophant for rising in the church, which perhaps may be made applicable to the civic bench;—and I assure you, Sir, I have known several ambitious barbers, who, aspiring to the dignity of a cock'd hat and gown, with shoulders itching for the golden burthen of the mace or civic sword, and with stomachs emulating the achievements of their lords and masters—I have known, I say, several of this aspiring race, who have dreamed by night and sighed fervently by day until the gilded honors have dazzled their sight; for the supreme felicity of shaving an Alderman—and they have actually cut the faces of their customers, so wrapt up have they been in this glorious theme, knowing that to obtain this dignified honor is the first step to preferment; and if Paul Pry informs me correctly, this experiment has sometimes succeeded, and if a cock'd hat has not been accessible, a tax-gatherer's book has been the reward of shaving; and, therefore, if not a civic beef-eater, he has, however, like him become as a matter of course, and by virtue of his office, a man of importance and consequence. I believe I shall trouble you on some future occasion, but, Mr. Editor, as you have taken up the gauntlet, pray let me seriously recommend you to keep the peace and out of all sorts of scrapes; for, otherwise, poor unlucky scribbler! you might perchance catch a real Phillip-er.

I am, Sir, your's truly,

STEPHEN.

HULL, August 29th, 1831.

MEM:—*I am not astonished at the information given me by this correspondent. Corporators are prone to imagine that they, better than others, know what is good for them; and if they thus manifest their gratitude to those who pull their noses to the mutual satisfaction of the puller and pullee, who shall have the hardihood to insinuate either that they do not need to have their noses pulled, or that the able operators do not merit their grateful acknowledgments for such services? Aldermen who indulge in such selfish gratifications, are more likely than myself to get a filliper. Aye, by the mace! and such a filliper as they will find it no easy matter to ward off.*

—00—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—Perceiving your motto to be “Bonis nocet, &c.” I think it my duty to turn your attention to the conduct of the WORSHIPFUL WARDENS, ELDER BRETHREN, and ASSISTANTS (wine bibbers and guttlers) of the Trinity-House. Now, Mr. Editor, I make bold to ask you, with whose money do they purchase wine by the pipe—build cellars for that wine—buy a yacht to go to Scotland, &c. and cram the said yacht with every kind of luxury? Is it for this that our poor sailors are to pay the 6d. per month, and our vessels to pay primage, &c.? The quarterly dinners, rent-day dinners, and private carousals every Saturday, are on the most extravagant scale. And with all this unprincipled conduct, these *Worshipful* Gentlemen can domineer over a poor, aged, emaciated seaman; and, after a long time spent

in petitioning, allow him the sum of *ten shillings* every three months!!! Shame! shame!!! It is high time that the proceedings of these self-elected *Gentlemen* were investigated. Trusting, Mr. Editor, that your able pen will enlarge the subject, I am your's, obediently,

A WORN OUT SAILOR.

HULL, September 2nd, 1831.

P. S. Rent-day dinners are every six weeks. It requires a great deal of interest to obtain a room in the hospitals, and I can assure you that the needy are turned away often, to make room for those who have sufficient to keep themselves, because they are friends or creatures of the members.

MEM:—*We have a sailor King, and that King is a reformer of abuses. To him, sooner or later, appeal must be made. Nor will he turn a deaf ear to the complaints of the necessitous and oppressed tar. Patience yet awhile—I am at school—and when I know my lesson, these overbearing, unfeeling, and unrighteous consumers of the poor man's loaf, shall hear the catalogue of my charges, to their utter shame and confusion.* Ed.

—00—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—Admiring as I do real independence in whatever breast it exists, from whatever quarter it flows, amongst whatever people it is cherished and supported, you will not be surprised that I attempt, however feeble the effort, to lend a helping hand to expose, uproot, destroy, and, if possible, annihilate Corporate imbecility and corruption. Corporate spoliation and arrogance, wherever it may shew its baneful head or exert its fetid influence. In compliance with my promise, I will give you some few particulars respecting the management of the ground on the garrison side, granted by the crown, by the third dock act (42nd Geo. III. c. 91) to the Corporations of the Mayor and Aldermen, and the Guild or Brotherhood of the Trinity-House. By this act, above thirty-seven acres of land on the garrison-side were granted to the above Corporations, in consideration of £8000*, in order to enable them to make the Humber Dock, which act gave them a power to sell, &c. &c. In the year 1807, a great part of the ground was sold by auction, (whereby an immense sum was realized) subject to certain conditions of sale. These conditions of sale, in describing the lots of ground, state that such several lots are to be bounded by such and such streets, and which the conditions state *were then forming*, to communicate with the streets adjoining. Now, every one knows that when an individual invests his capital in land, the more numerous and easy the access he has to such land, the more valuable such property will become, when the population in the neighbour-

* Which sum of £8000 appears by a subsequent act (5 Geo. IV. c. 52) to have been reduced to £4000—Government retaining something more than four acres for the ditch round the fort,—thus reducing the thirty-seven acres to thirty-three acres; and giving as the price per acre (as near as well may be) £121 4s. 3d. Ed.

hood increases, and when such land becomes built upon and the houses inhabited. Among the streets so named as being set out and being formed, is one called Upper Harcourt-street, which now is a street leading from Great Union-street to the end of Peter-street, but which, as originally set out, was a street, not terminating with the end of Peter-street, but continuing to the street leading past the south side of Drypool Church to the Citadel. To the end of Peter-street they completed Upper Harcourt-street, but there they finished—prudently waiting ten or twelve years to feel the pulse of the parties interested—and then, with the most unblushing impudence, and in unprincipled contempt of their conditions of sale, sold this identical ground—this continuation of Peter-street thoroughfare, to Messrs. Harrison, to make the bonding pond which now occupies the site in question. This too in the face of the following extract from the printed conditions of sale:—"The venders engage to complete and finish the several streets called Upper and Lower Harcourt-streets, and St. Peter-street, within

months from this time, the same to be thereafter maintained and repaired by the several purchasers of the lots respectively adjoining thereto." In the copy of the conditions I have, the blank is not filled in, but as it is an unsigned copy, I suppose it would be filled in at the time of sale, prior to the signatures of the purchasers and auctioneer being thereto attached. In pursuance of one of the sections of the Act of Parliament above quoted, a committee was appointed, consisting of six individuals, three Aldermen and three Trinity Corporators, whose duty was and is, like the inquisitions of other days, to watch the owners and occupiers of the Garrison-side ground, and report the slightest deviation from the letter of the conditions; *provided always* that the offenders be not participators in any of *their acts of iniquity*, or personal friends or tenants. But woe to the unhappy wight not so connected, who shall be caught in the breach of the conditions. *Instantly* is the legal arm upraised against him in the duplicate proceedings of the legal representatives of the respective Corporations, the Town Clerk and Secretary, to the *trio in two* brotherhood—while the tenants of this double-bodied monstrosity are allowed to sin with impunity. Alike free from censure or reproach, in them it is no crime to use the public streets as depositories for their goods—they sit in its sun-shine of favour, and fear no ill. I should tell you, Upper Harcourt-street is laid down in some of the published plans of Hull in the way described—particularly in one published, I believe, by the late Dr. Alderson†.

There are many more similar humbugs practised by these immaculates, which you shall have from time to time; the Waterworks job—the Gaol job—cum multis aliis. The only difficulty is where to begin.

DELTA.

† I should feel greatly obliged by any correspondent favoring me with such maps (more or less ancient) of this town, as may assist in elucidating the complicated descriptions set forth in the Parliamentary statutes.

MEM:—*My correspondent will not need the information that every exposure of injustice is a thorn in the flesh of the oppressor—of whom there are many in Hull—and whose respective bodies I would have, stuck as full with such thorns, as are the quills on the fretful porcupine. Thus we should have a bevy of fretful Corporators. They are getting fidgetty already. My faith! if they but dreamed of the impending thunderbolts—they would take ship in the Freak, up sail and away, as speedily as wind and weather might permit. By the bye, I should be glad to learn under what authority the Trustees of the Burgesses procured an Act of Parliament, sanctioning their becoming partners in a trading company? I think they are within the bankrupt laws—that is nothing, comparatively with certain other laws, which rather affect the criminal, than the unfortunate. I hope it may be found that the Trustees of the property of the Burgesses have not appropriated the trust funds to their personal advantage. They cannot be too careful to avoid purchasing directly or indirectly of each other—with the Corporate funds.* Ed.

—oo—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—Passing the Humber Dock a few days ago, I observed one of the Hamburgh packets, together with the Dock Company's mud-engine, *both with fires on board.*

Now, by a law made by themselves some time ago, they prohibit any vessel *whatever* from having a fire, or even candle, unless under certain restrictions.

I wish to ask why the said packet and engine are allowed those privileges, when all other vessels are denied them?

I am, &c.

A. B. C.

HULL, September 5th, 1831.

MEM:—*It is an old adage that "one man may steal a horse when another may not look over a hedge." My correspondent asks why things are as they are, and not as they ought to be. He writes of monopolists, and should know that such people seldom condescend to give a reason for their unreasonableness. But it is a long lane that has no turning, and there is some ground for hoping that a turn may be found in the dirty lane of Hull abuses. I am on the look out, and if I find not one made to my hand, may chance to play the hedger and make one.* Ed.

—oo—

QUERIES FOR SOLUTION.

Of whom, for what sum, and under what circumstances, was the present Guildhall purchased by the Corporation?

Of whom, for what sum, and under what circumstances, was the building ground near Spring-head purchased by the Corporation?

How can I obtain perusal of the report of the Parliamentary Commissioners on the Hull Charities?

Was not the right of the Corporate nobles to put out their lights (or rather dark lanterns) some years since successfully contested?—and how can I obtain particulars of the circumstance to which I refer?

Has the Dock Company ever cleansed the harbour?

Where can a list of the participators in the Corporate Charities be obtained? It is also necessary I should know who of them are, and who are not burgesses, or the widows of burgesses—what were their claims on the charity when admitted, and by what influence the unworthy have been foisted on the funds left by the benevolent of former ages for the sustenance or relief of the really distressed and really deserving.

THE EDITOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—The Post-Master of Hull, as you stated in No. 3, has already a salary of £800 a year, with which he is to conduct the management of the office intrusted to his care; this sum, it would almost appear, is far too little, when I tell you, that he is in the constant habit of charging over and above the general postage as settled by Act of Parliament, for the delivery of each letter the sum of "one penny." This, I say, is not only contrary to the express orders of the Post Master General, but in direct violation of the law. I may also state, several trials have taken place to decide this question, and the result has always been against the legality of the claim; and yet after all, the post-masters in populous and more particularly in small market and post towns, still persist in exacting the "pence" which the people pay, on the supposition that the claim is legal. The public are then, in consequence of post-masters forwarding their letters by messengers, to whom they are to pay "a penny" for their remuneration, paying them for doing nothing. I have heard it argued that these "pence" are claimed as a kind of fee for the immediate delivery of the letters; this, however, cannot be supported, as every post-master is bound by his *oath*, before he enters upon his duty, that he will not "wittingly, willingly, or knowingly open, detain, or delay, or cause, procure, permit, or suffer to be opened, detained, or delayed, any letter or letters, &c. &c." And will men, before the face of God, break the confidence reposed in them, and the engagement into which they have solemnly entered? They will, unless you pay them a "penny"! Such is the conscience of man! To use the words of a learned author in the law, in two cases to which I have given reference*, he says, "It is now settled that if the persons to whom letters are addressed reside within the limits of the post town, the post-masters are obliged to deliver such letters at their places of abode, and at the rate of postage only as established by Act of Parliament." And in another case† taken notice of by the same author, "that an action for damages lies against a deputy post-master for non delivery of letters gratis in a country post town."

Persons should not, in justice to themselves, allow this imposition to continue any longer.

I am, &c.

VOX RECTA.

HULL, September 5th, 1831.

* Stock v. Harris, Deputy Post-master at Gloucester; and Smith v. Plowditch.

† Rowning v. Goodchild.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

MR. EDITOR,—The existing abuses in the Post-office, referred to in your Portfolio No. 3, has induced me to expose an imposition practiced at that office, in charging one penny on each letter delivered beyond the three docks, or in other words, the old town walls—which comprises the remaining part of Trinity parish, the whole of Sculcoates and Drypool parishes, and the most populous part of Sutton parish, and containing a population exceeding in numbers that of the old town.

Being resolved to ascertain the legality of this charge, which is decidedly a partial impost, I addressed a letter to the Post Master General on the subject, and received the following answer:—

"General Post-Office, 14th June, 1831.

"SIR,—Having made full enquiry on the subject of your representation of the 17th ult. I laid the same before his Grace the Post Master General, and I am commanded to inform you in reply, that the boundary for the delivery of the letters in all country towns is not left as you appear to suppose to the discretion of the post-master, but is fixed on actual survey by this Board; and that in regard to the city of Hull, his Grace, upon full consideration, does not find it expedient to extend the present established limits of the delivery.

"I am, Sir,

"Your obedient humble servant,

"J. REILLY, Secretary."

It appears that the Post Master General either evades the question, or his secretary has misunderstood his instructions, for my letter complained of the extra charge made, and not that there was no delivery; but not a word is said as to the charge of a penny—and it is evident that the post-master has, on his own authority, passed this invisible boundary, which has been defined by actual survey. To get rid of this unlawful impost, the parties interested should unite in petitioning Parliament for redress.

I remain, Sir, your's, obediently,

J. B.

HULL, September 5th, 1831.

ERRATUM.—The line "I was not with the fallen or the dead," in the ode in last week's Portfolio, should be "I war not with the fallen," &c.

The writer of the letter respecting the Court of Requests, intended to say, that if a debt ever exceeded £5, and the creditor received any portion of it, the debtor could not be put into the Court, or, if put in, would declare the sum merely a balance, and be instantly discharged. In fact, the debtor is not called upon to appear; a note stating the case is deemed sufficient. This is a most pernicious clause in the act.

MY NOTE-CASE.

Can any of my readers inform me the amount of salaries paid to the Clerk, Sexton, and Grave-digger of the parish of the Holy Trinity? Ed.

A correspondent informs me that the Hull Workhouse is supplied with flour from the Grimsby bone-mill. I have enquired into this serious allegation, and find it UNTRUE. Anxious as I am for correct information, I trust I shall never allow myself to be made the instrument of designing and bad men, in the dissemination of falsehood. The Grimsby mill is worked by a tread-wheel, which receives impetus from the parochial paupers of that place, who perhaps are so ignorant as to suppose that they are thus punished for the criminality of being unfortunate. It would be highly gratifying to witness a gang of Aristocrats at this healthful exercise. It would, doubtless, be beneficial to them, and certainly not injurious to the public; and if our Corporators were to take an occasional turn it would strengthen their digestive powers. Ed.

JOSEPH NOBLE, PRINTER, HULL.

Hull Portfolio;

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF AN EDITOR.

"Bonis nocet quisquis pepercerit malis."—CICERO.
HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING, BY JOSEPH NOBLE,
(opposite the High Church) MARKET-PLACE, HULL.

Vol. 1.—No. 5. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1831. Twopence.

MEM:—That I have not been an idler this week, thousands upon thousands can bear testimony, and if I have not written much, I have at least worked hard in the cause of the people. The events of the last few days will, I trust, form an eventful period in the History of Hull, as that of the regeneration of the liberties and the restoration of the rights of its inhabitants. The destruction of the iniquitous monopoly of our Anti-commercial Corporators is commenced; and, with the throwing open of the Ferry between Hull and Barton, I believe I shall have lopped off one of the unprofitable branches of the ugly old tree of chartered corruption. I will not halloo before I am well out of the wood, yet this I may be permitted to observe, that when I shall have removed this toll from the river, and which I shall effect if sufficiently supported by the public, there are an infinity of other and equally illegal exactions to be, one by one, removed from the industrious classes of the community—from the trader and the merchant. But I will not allow any diversion of my energies until they may have crowned my present effort with success; for otherwise, I might risk all and lose all from an undue confidence or a divided attention. The battle is not yet won, for although I have well breached the citadel of the enemy, it were a grievous folly to rejoice as for a victory whilst a ragged ensign of a rotten cause flies on the ramparts of usurpation and imposition.

The oppressors of the people cannot justly charge me with a lack of zeal or energy; be it my care that they be compelled also to acknowledge the sufficiency of my prudence for the conduct of the glorious cause in which I have embarked. Public opinion is with me; and if I do not miscalculate its value, the eventual, and possibly, the speedy triumph, of right over might—is morally secure.

JAMES ACLAND.

I have not even time this week separately to acknowledge the many favors of my correspondents, but they shall each have my early attention. I request they will suppose me ignorant of the most notorious iniquities of the bad people of this town, for I have only just been informed of a circumstance of importance known to every body but me—and therefore supposed by every body to be known to me. Let it be remembered I am a stranger, and have every thing to learn.

Ed.

TO MR. GEORGE LEE, EDITOR OF THE
ROCKINGHAM, NEWSPAPER.

SIR,—You profess to be a Whig. I am a Radical Reformer; and I only like a Whig when compelled by public opinion, or by his own sense of propriety, to remedy existing abuses, and to expose and counteract national or local impositions.

We have now a Whig Administration at the helm of Government, and our rulers are obliged to profess themselves Radical Reformers, or *all but* Radical Reformers, in order to their remaining in office.

I had, therefore, a reasonable expectation that you would at least have respected my efforts to redress the wrongs of the people of Hull, and some hope (was it an unreasonable hope?) that you would have assisted me in so just an effort.

But, Sir, you have taught me that there is nothing certain in the calculation of men's principles on the data of their professions, and I deeply regret having occasion to record my opinion that you have a much higher sense of your individual importance than of your political duties.

On the recent occasion of our beloved Sovereign's coronation, you were afforded a noble opportunity of manifesting your loyalty to your King, and equally your loyalty to the

People who are the source of all legitimate authority. Eating, drinking, and toasting, are usually resorted to as demonstrations of the former, but we must look further for our evidence of the latter. You ate and drank and toasted; you were, therefore, in the general acceptance of the term, right loyal to the King, whose coronation you thus commemorated. But, where shall I look for proof of your loyalty to your other masters, the people—for I suppose you will not deny that you, as well as myself, are the paid servant of the public?

Among the events of Thursday week, as I learn from your newspaper—first and foremost there was a great dinner at the Cross Keys Inn. A bill was placarded, announcing such public dinner, and informing me, as I read it, that tickets at ten shilling each might be procured of the landlord of the inn and elsewhere. Being a mere novice, I thought a public dinner open to those of the public who thought proper to pay the price of the viands, and being desirous of having a taste of the quality of the ten-shilling-folk of this town, I purchased a ticket of the host of the Cross Keys, paid my money, and, as requested, registered my name on the list of declared and admitted guests. Your name was not then on that list.

A correspondence subsequently ensued—which will be best explained by the subjoined documents—and I beg you will read them carefully:—

No. 1.

"Cross Keys Hotel, September 8th.

"SIR,—Mr. Geldard begs to inform Mr. Acland, that as he is not known to the Gentlemen who intend dining at the Cross Keys to-day, he feels it his duty towards them to return him (Mr. A.) the amount of his dinner ticket*; and am,

"Your's, "THOS. GELDARD."

No. 2.

"MR. GELDARD, CROSS KEYS INN.

"SIR,—I have received a most extraordinary letter from you, with respect to the public dinner at your house this evening; and for which I purchased a ticket of you last night.

"I deny that you have any right to exclude me from such dinner; and if, instead of an appeal to my feelings, it is intended to prevent my attendance by the unauthorised will of the landlord, I feel it due to myself to declare that I shall not re-sell you my ticket.

I beg, however, that you will state to any of those who originated the dinner, that I shall be very happy to meet

them on the subject, at any hour or place they may please.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES ACLAND.

"23, Market-Place, 8th Sept. 1831."

No. 3.

"MR. GELDARD,

"SIR,—One of the originators† of your Coronation dinner having informed me that you have admitted my unquestionable right to attend it although a stranger, and understanding that my attendance would reduce the number of the party and thereby prejudice your interests, I please to exercise my discretion, and shall dine with a number of gentlemen less Aristocratic but much more liberal in their feelings than those who have objected to my company.

"I therefore enclose you my card; and am,

"Sir, your's, &c.

"JAMES ACLAND.

"Thursday, three, p. m."

Now, Sir, you will perhaps admit that at your dinner, that most highly respected gentleman, Mr. La Marche, was president, and that you were his Vice—nor do I expect you will deny that Mr. Geldard's letter was written in consequence of your refusal and (under your advice) of the refusal of Mr. La Marche to dine with the party, if I were to be one of the guests. At all events, your denial would not avail you, albeit corroborated by your first man in this matter, one Lawyer B. L. Johnson—whose interference in the business certainly appears to me most extraordinary, after the radical proffers made me by that individual, in the shop of my publisher, three or four days previously.

What if I am a stranger, is that any reason why I should be insulted by men calling themselves gentlemen?—What though I be a *real* reformer,—is that any reason why a professed Whig of the present day, should fear the contamination of my society? What if I am a fellow candidate with you, Sir, for the approbation and support of our masters the public;—Should you therefore be jealous of my success? What though I have shamed your friend Mr. Schonswar into the payment of the widow's claim;—is that a sufficient ground for your personal enmity?

Be this however as it may, certain it is that your conduct on this occasion has appeared to many of your friends, inexplicable; and, the fact of my absence from your coronation dinner, being not less inexplicable to many who joined your party in the anticipation of my being one among them, compelled me to this unpleasant explanation. How you may reconcile your conduct with your professions, I know not,

* In my absence the money was tendered to my publisher, but very properly refused by him. Of course it was sent me, after I had returned my card.

J. A.

† This gentleman was no party to the foolery in question, and I believe he was heartily ashamed of the inexplicable meanness of his less liberal associates.

J. A.

nor is it for me to enquire. Suffice it, in conclusion, to observe, that whilst I regret your folly, I have to thank you for one of the most agreeable evenings I have ever enjoyed; for, the loyalty of those with whom I commemorated the coronation of our patriot Sovereign, was undiluted by whiggism and sweetened by the reflection that he is indeed the King of his People and the Prince of Reformers.

THE EDITOR.

POST OFFICE.

THERE were two letters in my preceding number worthy the attention of Mr. Rodmell, to whom it is due that I acknowledge his effort to remedy the evils of which I complained on a former occasion. I am informed by two respectable gentlemen, that they have received their letters an hour earlier than they had previously done, and it is admitted on all hands that they are now *soberly* delivered. This promptitude on the part of the Post-master bodes well, and encourages me to hope that all existing abuses in the administration of the important duties of his office, will, ere long, be remedied. The correspondence to which I would now direct his attention, has reference to a most extensive imposition of long standing, and, as it appears to me, of self evident injustice.

The postage from London to Hull is eleven pence, and all letters delivered in the town of Hull are legally chargeable with that amount, and no more. I shall not now enter on the question of letters delivered either in the county of Hull or in the parish of Sculcoates; but, restricting my attention to the Hull town delivery, the following are the facts whence the imposition complained of is clearly deducible.

Letters are delivered in one part of Hull at the legal charge of eleven pence, whilst those delivered in another part of the town are charged a shilling. These two parts are separated, or rather united, by a bridge rendered necessary by the passage between two docks. Now, these two parts of Hull had existence before the docks were built, and there is nothing in any of the Dock acts, or in any other act, creating the post-office distinction between the inhabitants of the same town, and indeed of the same parish. Hull has not gone over this bridge, but the bridge as intruded itself between these two parts of Hull, and if a penny extra might equitably be charged for the delivery

of letters on the north side of the docks, justice would hold the Dock Company, and not individual housekeepers, to be so chargeable. But equity does not require this penny, and if expediency does, it is the expediency of the Hull post-office, and not the expediency of the public. In short, the simple facts need but a plain statement, supported by the signatures of those aggrieved, to remove this long-existing ground of complaint against the partiality, or fancifulness, or cupidity of the post-office gentlemen.

In my next number, I will submit a representation on the subject to those whom it interests, and afford them an opportunity of assisting me in giving it the required effect with the reforming Post-master-General, His Grace the Duke of Richmond—unless the imposition be in the interim discontinued.

THE EDITOR.

EXTRACTED FROM THE REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED BY GOVERNMENT, FOR ENQUIRING INTO ABUSES IN CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

By Charter of Incorporation of King Charles II. The Trinity House are authorized to take primage within the Port of Kingston-upon-Hull, and the liberties thereof: viz. threepence for every Tun of Wine, Oil, Fish, and all other goods and merchandize to be brought by Sea into, or shipped or laden at the port of Hull, or within the liberties thereof, by any Ship, Bark, Hoy, or Vessel; and that the said primage, and all other sums of money due or to be received by the said Guild, or Fraternity, shall be to the use and profit of the said Guild or Brotherhood—unto and for the repairing a certain House, or Hall, or Almshouse in the said Town, belonging to the said Guild, called the Trinity-House; and of a Chapel appertaining to the same, built by their predecessors, and for the relief of twenty-eight poor Persons, Brethren of the said Guild, or their Widows fallen in poverty or need, or by misfortune thereafter to come to poverty; and also for the relief of other poor Mariners and Seamen and their Widows, such as by them and their Successors should be thought meet and necessary therewith to be relieved.—The average annual receipts are £3374 7s. 1d.

Also, grants for erecting and repairing the Buoy at the Harbour mouth;—fourpence, not exceeding 60 tons; from 60 to 100 tons, sixpence; from 100 to 150 tons, ninepence; and from 150 to 200 tons, and upwards, one shilling; and double the like duty upon Foreign Ships.

This Corporation are also in receipt of the duty of sixpence per month on Seamen's wages; under the 29th Geo.

H. c. 38, for the relief and support of maimed and disabled Seamen, and the widows and children of such as shall be killed, slain, or drowned, in the Merchants' service. This is applied to support the poor in the Merchants' Seamen's Hospital. Average annual amount £690 17s. 11d.

Total average receipts £5913 3s. 11d.

Sundry disbursements in contracts for buildings, land, surveyor's salary, law expences, &c. amounting, on an average, annually, for the last ten years, to £712 6s. 3d. !!!!!!!!!

Annually expended in dinners, £260 !!!!!!!!!

—oo—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

Over shoes, over boots.

MR. EDITOR,—The public ought to be much indebted to you for opening a channel through which their grievances may be laid bare, and by a proper exposure of them, meet a chance of having them redressed. Such a vehicle as the Portfolio, which you have so successfully started, has long been wanted in this town; and I trust that it will be as successfully carried on as it has been auspiciously begun. I have been an inhabitant of the town for nearly twenty years, and have often heard of the most abominable abuses existing in various quarters—but a spirit of detection of these abuses I never saw so generally afloat as is now apparent—and I must give you the credit of leading the way in so praiseworthy a pursuit. This spirit of detection has reached men the most obtuse—for the Corporation, at last, have discovered that they are unpopular in the town. This discovery was made so lately as last week, on a memorable occasion, when some "*striking*" proofs were received by a part of that body, which had so long been impervious to any other demonstration. Fear roused the faculties which reason had so long in vain attempted to awaken. Amongst the many freaks of this "*little Collective Wisdom*," I am going to relate one that has excited almost as much conversation as the conflict which now rages on the Humber, on the hitherto peaceable path between Barton and Hull. The conduct of the Corporation at the Coronation was such as will not quickly be effaced from the memory of the inhabitants of this town; nor will the *little union* that now prevails in *Great Union-street*, be soon forgotten in the quiet hamlet of Drypool. It unfortunately happens that two Corporations are implicated in this affair; and if so much evil oozes out of one Corporation as that which we are continually witnessing, how much more is likely to

ooze out of two such pseudo-immaculate bodies? But, to my subject. It appears that about thirty years ago, certain portions of land in Drypool were given by Government to the Corporations of the Town and Trinity-House, in consideration of the money laid out by these bodies towards the formation of the Humber Dock, but with an express stipulation that they should make, and keep in proper repair, a road or street called Union-street, leading through Drypool to the Garrison. This was specially provided for by Act of Parliament. The Corporations then sell such parts of this land as they deem most to their own interest—and, to induce purchasers to come freely forward, they state in public advertisement, certain advantages appertaining to the property; amongst others, that the road will be fifty-one feet wide, including a *flagged pathway of six feet*. Now, this flagged pathway you must keep steadily in your eye, for about it the whole dispute now existing hangs. This pathway the Corporations have kept in repair during the last thirty years; but the flags, after being repaired over and over again, at last want renewing—and lately the old flags have been taken up—but, instead of *laying down flags* and making this pathway as it had hitherto been, the Corporations, through their Committee, have determined to form the pathway of stones, and not of flags, which is a gross deviation from the original understanding between the parties. Will it be believed that two public bodies, *nominally so respectable*, would stoop to so pitiful a plan, in order to revenge themselves upon a few individuals who successfully opposed them in attempting to saddle those individuals with the expences of keeping in repair this very road or street, which they were bound by Act of Parliament to do themselves? Such, however, is the fact—and this leads me insensibly to another chapter in this shameful transaction. Why, you would naturally ask yourself, should the Corporation wish to throw an expence upon others, that they were bound by the law to bear themselves?

"Revenge is sweet," especially to Corporations;
"Pillage from soldiers, primage from seamen."

You must know then, Sir, that a new road is being formed between this town and Hedon, running through Union-street, by which the traffic will be of course much increased, and the road so much the more frequented. Here was a fine opportunity, the Committee thought to get rid of this expence of keeping the road in repair, so they set to work, and they try to get the thing twisted into the

trust of the turnpike to Hedon; and thus exonerate themselves from any further charge of the road. But, in this they were completely baulked; for the proprietors of the land in that neighbourhood thought it a little "too bad" that they should pay twice for the same thing—once, when they purchased the property, and now, when the flags want renewing—and therefore, they posted up to London an active and intelligent attorney, who soon apprized the folks at head quarters how matters actually stood; in consequence of which, Lord Shaftesbury dashed his pen through the clause which these wily gentry had contrived to get inserted in the Bill. The gentleman, who was the main-spring in thus foiling them so admirably upon their own ground, is now singled out as the object upon whom the Corporations are determined to have their revenge. The manner in which they have proceeded, and are now proceeding to accomplish their ends, I shall detail to you in my next, being fearful that this communication has already extended to a length disproportionate to the nature of your publication. I therefore take my leave of you for the present; trusting that this incipient attempt from a fresh quarter may be the means of checking their "High Mightinesses*" from lording it over the people in a way they have so long been accustomed to do.

I am, Sir, your's,

A VICTIM TO THE SYSTEM.

MEM:—*I look most anxiously for the sequel of this extraordinary matter in "A Victim to the System's" second letter, and with which I hope to be favored in good time for next Saturday's publication.*

Ed.

—oo—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—The perusal of your paper of last Saturday, and the occurrences of the week, induce me to trouble you with the following communication:—

The present Guildhall was purchased of the late *Alderman Jarratt*. The price I do not know, but no doubt a fair one.

The ground near Spring-head was bought of the present *Mayor*, and no doubt the price was liberal.

A perusal of the report of the Parliamentary Commissioners of public charities, cannot be refused by the Librarian of the Subscription Library, Parliament-street, the Secretary of State for the Home Department having placed it there for public inspection.

* Their "High Mightinesses," a term given to them by one of their own body, and not the least learned amongst them.

The Corporation and Trinity-House became possessed of the Garrison-side ground in a curious way (see *Humber Dock Act*). These two immaculate bodies (*many individuals of each Corporation having shares in the Hull docks*) gave much larger sums than the Garrison-side ground was worth (which was given them by Government, in consideration of their assisting the Dock Company) to make another dock, thereby benefitting their individual interest in the docks, at the expence of the burgesses and sailors, whose Trustees they are. I suppose they could not decently give trust money to the Dock Company, to enable the latter to improve their property, without having something in return, so they got about ten shillings worth of ground for every twenty shillings they gave the Dock Company. It appears to me they had as much right to give a warehouse-keeper money to enlarge his premises, as they had to assist the Dock Company, who are only a company of wharfingers, under an Act of Parliament. But I believe the secret is, certain persons wished to improve their private property in the docks at the expence of the public. The Dock Company were not poor, for at that time shares in the docks were worth £1,700; and their original cost was only £250.

Might not the public bring our vile press to their senses, if they would not purchase papers under the influence of the Corporations? or frequent beer-houses or public-houses that took in such nuisances? The public have the power of making the newspapers tolerably decent, if they think proper. What can be more disgusting than to read in the *Packet*, that there would be service at the Holy Trinity Church, at the instance of the Corporation, on the Coronation morning, and in the *Advertiser*, that there never was witnessed such disgraceful conduct, as on Thursday last, during the last thirty years? although it is notorious that a greater display of loyalty was never manifested in a town—*if we except the Corporations and the Custom-House*. By the bye, Earl Grey must get rid of the understrappers in all the public offices. Corruption placed them there, and they consider it their duty to oppose the present Government.

Can you inform the public why the Corporation has removed the flagging in Union-street, Drypool, after engaging to put it there, and suffering it to remain upwards of twenty years? They appear to be above the law, and never scruple to violate it, when, by so doing, they can injure or annoy mankind.

There is a report, the truth of which I have not yet ascertained, that the officers at the Garrison were so disgusted at the want of loyalty in our Corporation, that they refused to dine at the Mansion-House, on Thursday last, and a depu-

* There is another letter on this subject in another part of this paper.

Ed.

tation of Aldermen waited on them to beg they would attend, lest their absence might cause unpleasant remarks.†

As the Trinity-House could afford to have two splendid dinners last week, might they not have contrived to have had one of them on Thursday? They would have done so if William IV. had been a despot and encourager of corruption!

Can you inform the public why the lamps in George-street and Charlotte-street are placed in groups. Many of them appear to be arranged to shew where Hull Aldermen live; although Sculcoates (where the streets are situated) is out of their jurisdiction most fortunately. Really such a nuisance ought not to be tolerated. It must be the subserviency of the Gas Company which has caused this annoyance to the public.

Would it not have been more creditable to have given every burgess who chose to accept it 5s. on Thursday last, than to have wasted money on special constables? Not more than 1500 or 2000 would have accepted it; and surely, upon such an occasion, the poor burgesses ought to have had some benefit from the corporate funds as well as the Mayor and Aldermen.

Does not much of the evil in Corporations arise from the power Town Clerks acquire? No stronger proof of the iniquity of Corporations can be, than that the situation of Town Clerk generally descends from father to son, as if secrecy were indispensable. During the reign of the present Town Clerk's father, there was a riot at the South end, and the rendezvous house was turned inside out; and the publican, amongst other things lost, claimed £30, which he alleged (*as was very probable*) he had laid by for his brewer. This claim our wise Corporation and Town Clerk thought proper to resist; but, after expending £600 of public money, they were very properly defeated. Was this law-suit for the benefit of the Corporate funds or for that of the Town Clerk? From what I can learn, the case is well worth investigation.

I am, Sir, your's, obediently,

A SHIPOWNER,

But not an Aristocrat of that class.

—oo—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—Your contest with that wise and worthy set of mortals, called the Corporation, brings to my mind an attempt of theirs to put down the old corn-market. The account may probably be of service to you; if not, it will shew the public the trickery and meanness to which these enlightened devourers of venison could descend, when they

† I believe five of the *young* officers did dine at the Mansion-House in consequence.

imagined such conduct would answer their selfish purposes. Three or four years since, they built a new corn-market; and, by way of stocking it with merchants and millers, they judged it highly desirable, and in fact, expedient, to abolish the old one. How to effect this, was the question. The ground, and the buildings upon it, were the property of Mr. Soulby, so they warned him, and not only him, but also the dealers in corn who had frequented his market, that they would play the very devil with all the parties concerned, if said parties durst continue the transaction of business on the spot they (the Corporation) had put under a kind of interdict. Mr. S. and his friends took very little notice of these denunciations of vengeance; they met at the usual time, and bought, and sold as they had formerly done. Well;—the Corporation, perceiving this scheme had proved abortive, had recourse to another, which consisted in sending a detachment of constables every market-day, to occupy the spot, and watch the proceedings of those assembled. The constables were, however, commanded to leave the premises by the owner, so they marched to the Mansion-House for fresh orders. After a long and serious deliberation, they returned to their post, and took up a position to guard the entrances to the aforesaid market. Here they stood for two months, peeping and prying in all directions; occasionally making notes, upon scraps of paper, for the inspection of their employers, and, when tired, trudging off each to his own habitation.

You will naturally enquire how all this ended? Why—in smoke. Mr. Soulby challenged the Corporation to bring their action, but, as the man says in the farce, "They were more wise;" and, after the marches, and countermarches, of the Dogberries I have mentioned, the affair dropped, and has never since been heard of. I have little doubt that your contest will have a similar termination; and, if I am not much deceived, in a far shorter period. Wishing you may enjoy the fruits of your victory,

I am, Sir, your's, &c.

W. N.

Hull, Wednesday afternoon.

MEM:—*Mr. Soulby's spirited conduct deserves further notice, and as I have all the Corporation documents, I will shortly recur to the subject.*

Ed.

—oo—

TO A CERTAIN ALDERMAN,
Who, for this week, shall be nameless.

SIR,—You owe Mr. William Watts Leonard, butcher, in the shambles, THIRTY-FOUR POUNDS and upwards; and have done so for several years; he has dunn'd you for it so often that you have tired his patience, and it seems he will suffer the loss of this considerable sum of money, if I do not take you in hand, and shame you into honesty.

Pay him:—pay him, Sir, before this day week, or you will hear more from,
THE EDITOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—Being an humble individual it is with great reluctance I attempt to trespass on the pages of your excellent publication, but at the present critical moment I hope you will not be offended at my so doing. There has been for the last week or two a great deal of talk about the ferry between Hull and Barton, and I, in reading the history of Hull, find the following paragraph: "A. D. 1316—Regular establishment of the ferry to Barton, by Robt. de Sandal, warden, at which period the charges were, every single man one half-penny—every horseman one penny—cart with two horses two pence." Grant dated at Lincoln, August 28th. 10th. Edward 2nd. The above, Sir, I find to be the last act concerning the fare between Hull and Barton. Yours, truly,
HULL, Sept. 12th. 1831. T. L.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—Your spirited conduct in providing the public with a boat to Barton at a fair charge, has met with general approbation, and the means used are, I think, well calculated to effectuate the end you had in view, a correction of the abuses of the old ferry.

The opinions of counsel, published in your Portfolio, respecting the right of the Corporation to increase their fares, I observe, are directed solely to their liability by so doing to be indicted, and to be compelled by the public to return to the fare fixed by their charter, but do not go on to state how far their exclusive right of ferry would be affected by the abuse in question; or, in other words, whether they could maintain an action against any person establishing an opposition boat, on the ground of its being an invasion of their exclusive right, under a charter, the terms of which they have neglected in a manner amounting to an indictable offence:—The question, however, does not seem a difficult one: the party so invading their "monopoly" would incur no other liability than that of an action at their suit: but, to enable them to maintain successfully this action, they must be prepared to prove,—1st. Their charter for the exclusive right; and, 2ndly. A convenient and sufficient conveyance provided on the terms of that charter. Now, I may ask, could the miserable sailing boat provided by the corporation (supposing the legal fares only to be demanded) be deemed by any twelve men to be a sufficient conveyance for the public, in the present state of society? Certainly not; the very fact of their having provided another, and a more convenient boat, would be decisive against them on that head: but, even admitting this boat to be unobjectionable, the fact of their exacting exorbitant fares for their other boat, (such exaction being an indictable offence) would, I think, insure their failure. The cases are numerous where a party seeking to enforce his civil rights, fails, through the disclosure of an illegal act connected with the matter in litigation and that

even, when such illegality does not in any way affect the situation or rights of the other party in the suit.

It is worthy of observation, that though the superior accommodation of the packet was prominently set forth in the case for the opinion of the now learned Judge, Park, as a ground for increasing the fares, he thought that circumstance of so little weight that he did not even allude to it in his opinion. Upon the whole, I think, your method of opposition is the best that could be adopted; and I hope that, with the advantages of the "Public Opinion" in your favour, you, as well as the public, will reap the benefit of it. I am, your's, truly,
Wednesday Morning. J. T. B.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—I rejoice to find that you do not intend to suffer the base and servile press of this Corporation-ridden town to pass unnoticed.

That miserable paper, the *Packet*, of this day, says, "There will be service on Thursday next, at the Holy Trinity church, at the instance of the Corporation."

Does the sycophant wish the public to understand that our worthy Vicar would not have had service on the day of Coronation, if he had not been requested by our disloyal Corporation? I say disloyal, because such a body can feel no attachment to William the Fourth, a Sovereign who wishes to promote the happiness of his people, which cannot be accomplished without destroying or curtailing the power to do mischief, of all Corporations, especially such as ours, who choose themselves, and may be deemed usurpers of authority and power?

It is thought Thursday will be a dull day here, but I trust otherwise. Although the Corporation would have celebrated the Coronation of such a tyrant as Don Miguel, or the Emperor Nicholas, with more pleasure—I dare say the public will testify their affection for our gracious Sovereign in a proper manner.

I am, Sir, your constant reader, A. B.

P.S. If the Corporation funds will admit of a good dinner at the Mansion-House, I think a trifle might be given to every poor freeman in the town. The Mayor and Aldermen seem to forget that in law the poorest burgess has an equal share with any one of them in the corporate property. Trustees should not devour all.

Tuesday night.

MEM:—I should imagine the Corporators sincerely regret their indulgence of the mummery of going to church in proceessional burlesque. They affect to pray to God for their Sovereign, who refuse to obey the command of that God to honour the King. What hypocrisy! Look at their beggarly procession—and then read their bills for the prevention of the public illumination—and, when you have done these things, recollect the disloyal darkness of the Corporators on Thursday week—and you will exclaim with me —"What consummate hypocrites must these men be!" Ed.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—Having read your paper, and considering its publication intended for public good in making *exposés* of impositions practised in Hull, I think the following statement may benefit some of your readers.

A few days since, I received a case by the Lowther steam-packet, from Yarmouth, and for the carriage and portorage of which I have been charged the exorbitant sum of *eight shillings and sixpence*; and upon application to the book-keeper for explanation (whose name, I understand, is Barrett, and resides at Selby) he had the assurance to tell me that the charge was *very moderate*, and that if he thought the case contained manufactured goods, he should have charged it double that sum; at the same time stating that they had no scale of charges for the conveyance of parcels, from Yarmouth, but only coastways. Thinking, therefore, that I should be able to get redress (the same as in London) I applied at the Mansion-House, and was informed that the only way by which I could obtain redress was by action at law. Thinking that that remedy was worse than the disease, I was compelled to submit.

Yours, respectfully, L. LYON.

N. B. I have received very much heavier parcels from London by the packet, for which I have only been charged 2s. 6d.—and for double the distance.

MEM:—Mr. L. tells a plain tale, and exhibits so great a disparity in the charges from London and Yarmouth, that it is difficult to conclude otherwise than that he has been subjected to an over-charge. Either this, or the proprietors of the London packet have been guilty of a very extraordinary undercharge. Ed.

—00—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—As a trial by jury is one of our most valuable privileges, it is necessary that the court in which justice is, or ought to be, administered, should be accessible through the medium of disinterested parties—that such is or can be at our general quarter sessions, will appear from an extract from the statute 22nd Geo. II. c. 46. s. 14. whereby it is enacted “that no Clerk of the Peace, or his deputy, nor any Under Sheriff, or his deputy, shall act as a Solicitor, Attorney, or Agent, or sue out any process, at any general or quarter sessions of the peace, to be held for any place where he should execute his office, upon pain of forfeiting *fifty pounds*.” The object of this act is to prevent the partial selection of a jury, and any accidental error in an indictment, and to prevent the Clerk of the Peace, or his deputy, who taxes the costs of prosecutions, from having any interest in such proceedings. That this act has not been complied with, may be ascertained by an attendance at the general quarter sessions, and reference to the county rate book, where the costs of prosecutions are entered as paid.

HULL, September 12th, 1831.

J. B.

MEM:—This needs looking to; the practice is illegal, and yet most frequent. Ed.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—In corroboration of the statement of your correspondent, A. relative to the *Royal Charter* carrying other animals beside human beings across the Humber, I beg to inform you, that two horses were brought from Barton, on deck, on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 4th; but I suppose the ferrymen consider every animal which has *fect* to be *foot* passengers. Yours, &c. J. W.

MEM:—All animals, of how many feet soever, who hereafter shall pay more than they ought, must be of the species called *assinine*. Ed.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

MR. EDITOR,—Your exposure of all the public abuses under your cognizance, is highly creditable to yourself, and must rejoice the hearts of many honest Briton, from whom are due ten thousand thanks for your unparralled, impartial, and independent Portfolio. Would to God there were more such, &c. &c.

I should, Mr. Editor, be very glad to be informed through the medium of your publication; whether the Post-master at Barton has a *legal right* to exact *one penny* (above the usual postage charged by Government) for the delivery of *every* letter to those to whom they are addressed, as the practice has been carried on (contrary to any other place) for many years, to the no small annoyance of myself and fellow townsmen.

Remaining, dear Sir, your very well-wisher in your laudable cause, and poor man's friend,

A. BARTONIAN.

P. S. If I receive a letter from London, the Government charge is 10d. but am compelled to pay 11d.—the postage from Hull is 4d. only, but pay 5d. Is this legal?

MEM: Let the people of Barton, or two or three of them, represent this imposition to the Postmaster-General (His Grace the Duke of Richmond) and the extortion will cease. Ed.

Advertisement.

R. FISHER,

PLUMBER AND GLAZIER,

BEGS to inform his Friends and the Public in general, that he has REMOVED from Church-Lane, to No. 9, CARLISLE-STREET, (opposite West-Street End) where a continuance of their favors will be thankfully received and punctually attended to. Hull, Sept. 16, 1831.

MY NOTE-CASE.

ERRATA:—In my last Portfolio, bot'om line but one in first column for representatives read constituents. Ed.

A. F. C. is in error. If he will call upon me at the publisher's, it will lead to satisfactory explanation. Ed.

JOSEPH NOBLE, PRINTER, HULL.

THE **Hull Portfolio;**

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF AN EDITOR.

—♦♦♦♦—
“*Bonis nocet quisquis pepercerit malis.*”—CICERO.
HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING, BY JOSEPH NOBLE,
(*opposite the High Church*) MARKET-PLACE, HULL.

Vol. 1.—No. 6.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1831.

Twopence.

TO THE PEOPLE OF HULL AND BARTON.

FRIENDS,—You had for many years been subjected to a heavy and most galling impost by the Corporation of Hull, as monopolists of the ferry from that town into Lincolnshire. That impost was illegal, and yet you suffered its continuance without resistance, if not without remonstrance. How long you would have continued your quiescence under this system of imposition, if I had not happened to take up my residence among you, it were difficult to imagine; but I may say with the Roman conqueror of my interference in this business, “*VENI, VIDI, VICI!*”—“I came, saw, and conquered.” Yet not alone could I have destroyed this monster of corruption. Without your support I must have failed. It is by your instrumentality I have been enabled to triumph, as you by my agency have been afforded the opportunity of shewing that you only submitted to illegal exaction, because the remediable measure appeared to be the business of every body, and was therefore the business of nobody.

The astonishing ignorance of many on this simple question is indeed matter for wonder. The case lies in a nutshell. The Corporators are pretty nearly in the situation of contractors, they undertaking to do a certain thing at a certain price. At the time the contract was taken, the stipulated price was beneficial to the contractors, but circumstances have subsequently rendered it otherwise—whereupon the said contractors raise their charge above the contract amount, without consent of the other party, and for the mere purpose of securing to themselves anordinate profit. The propriety and legality of such course cannot be contended for, a single moment—and none but such Tories or hypocritical Whigs can affect to believe

that might have any equitable privilege so to usurp over right.

I have read with much pain an article on this all-absorbing subject in the *Rockingham*, of last Saturday—as milk-and-water a piece of sophistry as ever was penned.—What Mr. George Lee can think of himself, or however he may estimate the intellect or credulity of his readers, I know not; but it is very apparent that he is equally fearful of public opinion and of the Hull Corporators. He would be friends with both, and disarm Scylla and Charybdis of their terrific properties by the lavish praises he bestows upon them. It is really lamentable to witness such political tergiversation—such moral backsliding.—But what can be expected of a Whig—save enmity to Tories and covert hatred to Reform?

Public Opinion still triumphs, and, despite the advice of George Lee, the public will not condescend to kneel at the Corporate footstool, and beg as a boon that which they have exercised as a right. As well might he attempt to arrest the course of the mid-day sun as to stay the influence of popular conviction, or to re-instate the Corporators of Hull in their monopoly of the Humber ferry.

Why, the estimable Daniel Sykes, has over and over again told the extortioners they had forfeited their right to the monopoly in question—and how it is that the professed friends of that gentleman can dare to write and print and publish such childish drivelling is no less astonishing than unaccountable. I pretend not to explain this phenomenon, but leave the erudite Editor to watch the daily progress of the Public Opinion from our pier-head, with such feelings of reflection and congratulation as may be most congenial to his understanding and wishes.

THE EDITOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—The notorious publicity which you have given to the Corporation management of their monopoly of the Ferries across the Humber, and the crowds of expression of public opinion which you have brought over the water, have aroused a corresponding feeling and excitement on the Lincolnshire side of the Humber; and although you have fairly surpassed us in your steamy operations, we, at Barton, beg leave to inform you that we do not mean to be entirely left behind. It has been for the last two years in discussion with us as to the mode we should pursue of memorializing the Lords of the Treasury, or to bring the subject of the ferries before Parliament, in order to call the attention of Government to the improvement the passage of the Humber is now capable of, since the introduction of steam, and the heads of our reminiscences were already compiled as instructions for the purpose, when your activity startled our slumbering energies; and, observing that neither yourself nor the public, nor even the lessees themselves here appear to have a full knowledge of our rights and privileges in respect to the Barton ferry, we have taken upon ourselves the liberty of transmitting to you, for general information, a brief history of what belongs to us in particular as the body corporate of the ancient town of Barton-upon-Humber, regarding the passage of the Humber, and which should have before this period (19th September, 1831) been made public by us, had we not been actuated by a friendly feeling towards our neighbours, the lessees, the nearer expiration of whose lease we were waiting for, before we commenced active operations.

BARTON, Sept. 19th, 1831. We are, &c. &c.

1831.

AS TO THE BARTON FERRY, WITH REFERENCE TO THE PRESENT DISPUTES CONCERNING THE FARES AND PRIVILEGES.

Temp: Domesday, 1068.

The Crown, as Lord of the Manor of Barton-upon-Humber, is, amongst other property, seised of an ancient ferry or passage of the water of Humber, being a ferry as ancient as the time of domesday, on which survey it was valued at four pounds, and which ferry came into the hands of the crown along with the manor, on the attainder of William Lord Viscount Beaumont, in 1461.

45th Edward III. 1372.

A Treasury Minute 45 Edward III. m. 19, notices a particular of what is called the ancient customs and privileges of the inhabitants of Barton, for their passing and re-passing the Humber, viz :—

One great boat, with three men, and cog-boat belonging, *and also one smaller boat, with two men, every market-day*, to serve either to Hessle or to Hull, as occasion shall require. Every person paying one penny; every quarter of hard corn 2d.; every quarter of malt 1d.; one horse and man 6d.; deals by the score 4d. Nothing to be paid under a horse load. The boat or boats to return the next tide, if weather serve, and not to take in strangers from Hull on the market day, to the prejudice of the said inhabitants: two or more of the boatmen to live at Barton. No boat to land on the green shore but in case of necessity. Also, upon request, neither boat to be denied for Hessle, paying the ancient fare; for every beast 5d. and gift money 1d. *No boat to lie at the horse staith to hinder landing*, and also to land all passengers, *without paying any more than the customary due.*

N. B. This particular account was practised in the time of Robert Proctor and Robert Trower, and also of William Long, Esq.—Robert Proctor had served from his youth under his father, who was master of the ferry; and Robert Trower was a tradesman, who for years had constantly kept the Hull markets; and both give a statement of the facts of usage, similar to the usages noted in the Treasury Minute, as being thus continued in their time. The memorandum of this statement, in the late Mr. Long's writing, but without date, is still extant, and is presumed to have been taken down some time towards the latter end of the 17th century; Robert Proctor, the father, being Churchwarden in 1673, and Mr. Long in 1687. The latter died in 1722, aged 80.

From the Parliamentary survey in Oliver Cromwell's time, it would appear that the Barton ferry at that period was under lease to Sir Arthur Ingram, Knight, for a term of years, and that the boats belonging the ferry had there been burnt by the common enemy, which boats it appears were then provided by the Lord of the Manor, but kept in repair by the Lessees. From this period to the present, it appears that the ferry has been constantly granted out by the Crown to private individuals, by way of lease for a term or terms of years.

29th October, 1778.

By Letters Patent from the Crown of this date, the Barton ferry was granted to Frances Pelham and Mary Pelham, of Whitehall, spinsters, (in consideration of £80 fine and a reserved rent of £22 2s.) for a reversionary term of 17 years, from the 21st March, 1792, that period being the expiration of a former lease granted to them.

In these letters patent the ferry is demised and described as—"All that passage of the water of Humber, in our county of Lincoln, and the toll of the market there, called the water of Humber, with all and singular the profits and appurtenances whatsoever to the said passage and tolls belonging or appertaining, and the yearly profits and sums of money whatsoever out of the ferryage of the same passage and tolls of the said market aforesaid, or either of them, from

time to time coming, increasing, happening, or arising. And all other profits, commodities, advantages, liberties, customs, emoluments, hereditaments, and appurtenances whatsoever, to the said passage and tolls, or either of them, in any manner belonging or appertaining, or with the same or any part or parcel thereof, heretofore or at any time reserved, demised, placed, or known, accepted, used, occupied, or enjoyed." And amongst the covenants in the said grant contained on the part of the lessees, is one—"That they shall and will, from time to time, and at all times thereafter, during the said term thereby granted, when, and as often as need and occasion shall be and require, at their or one of their own proper costs and charges, well and sufficiently *re-build, furnish, repair, amend, support, uphold, and maintain* the ferry boats usually employed for the convenience of passengers over the said water or passage; *and also well and sufficiently repair and support the mounds and fences* of, and belonging to, the said passage, and the said ferry boats, and other the said premises hereby demised, so well and sufficiently re-built, furnished, repaired, and amended, at the end or other determination of the said term, shall and will peaceably and quietly leave, surrender, and yield up to us, our heirs and successors."

N. B. This covenant is noted to shew the general practice under these leases that whatever conveniences were made for the ferry, should not be taken away at the expiration of the term.

In the year 1782, the Misses Pelham disposed of their term in the ferry to George Uppleby, Esq. of Barrow.

And in 1786, Mr. Uppleby demised the same to Messrs. Faucett, Waiker and Co. the then coach proprietors, for a term of twenty-one years, at a rent of £200 per annum.

And in 1796, Mr. Uppleby sold his interest in the ferry for £2920, to William Osbourne, Esq. on behalf of the Corporation of Hull, on whom it is now settled under the Crown.

If we commence with the first disputes regarding the tolls of the Barton ferry, we may go so far back as domesday, in which survey it is stated, amongst the claims in the North-riding of Lincolnshire, "That in Beretune (Barton) and Ferebe (Ferriby) the vassals of Gilbert de Gand, take other tolls than they took in King Edward's time, of bread, of fish, skins, (query if not rather of fishes called corias) and many other things, for which nothing had been paid." But for the present purpose we need not look farther back than the year 1777, when a dispute arose between the then lessees of the two ferries, viz. John Western, the lessee of the Barton ferry, and John Tripp, who held the Hull ferry, from which it would appear that the personal fares charged at that period had been advanced to 4d. and which had been charged by each ferry, the one party accounting to the other for their respective dues, and this arrangement as to the fare, it appears, had been acquiesced in and continued for forty years, previous to the month of June, 1774, when Tripp refused to account any longer to the Barton lessee, and without alleging any reason. How long this altercation lasted does not appear; but, in 1785, Western quitted the ferry, and Mr. Uppleby, the then owner of the lease of the Barton ferry, was about agreeing to let same to Tripp, but, from some arrangement, and most probably

from the desire of the then coach proprietors to prevent Mr. Tripp obtaining a monopoly, it became demised to the coach proprietors, at a considerable advance of rent, and they opposed Tripp in his intended monopoly, and caused new boats to be constructed for the Barton ferry, and made new landing places and conveniences; and, with the most marked attention and civility to the public, a fierce opposition was carried on between the two ferries for several years. During this period, the fare was advanced to 6d. each passenger by the new hoy, as the Barton hoy was called; the Lincolnshire public acquiescing in the advance, in consideration of the increased attention and accommodation.

In or about the year 1796, Mr. Tripp's lease of the Hull ferry expired, when the Corporation of Hull purchased Mr. Uppleby's lease of the Barton ferry, which had then thirteen years to run before the expiration of his term under the Crown. The Corporation paid £2920 for the purchase. The Barton ferry being then by lease from Mr. Uppleby vested in the coach proprietors at a yearly rent of £200, and the proprietors of the coaches having agreed with the Corporation for the lease of the Hull ferry, both ferries became united in one proprietorship, they themselves not hesitating to possess the monopoly which, in the case of Mr. Tripp, they had before disapproved of and opposed. In not purchasing the Barton ferry, the coach proprietors appear to have been guilty of a sad oversight, since, from the necessity of their being obliged to attend to the coach passengers, they were now compelled to consent to an increase of rent for the Hull ferry, all which operated no doubt to induce them afterwards to increase the fare in the hoy from a sixpence to a shilling, an increase which at that time occasioned a vast discontent and altercation with the public, who, not having any privity of their agreement with the Corporation, could not see the necessity of an increase of fare where there was no corresponding increase of accommodation; but so the fare continued.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

—oo—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

MR. EDITOR,—“Every body reads the Portfolio,” is the constant cry of all that I meet with in Hull, as every body in London is asking one another, on a more important subject, “What will the Lords do?” It is really surprising to see a publication so young in such *intense* request.—It is to be seen in the hands of the old and the young—mothers suckling their children, read it—and old men, tending their stalls of vegetables and fruit, are greedily devouring its contents. Would you believe it, Mr. Editor, that it finds its way into the pockets of an *Alderman*? Of this I was an eye-witness myself. How are we to account for these circumstances? Is it that the people, generally, always dislike those that are placed in authority over them?

or is it that "Constituted Authorities" invariably abuse the trust reposed in them? Leaving you or others to give a solution of these enquiries, I resume my narrative of the affair about the stones and flags in Drypool, adding thereto a few comments of my own by way of conclusion. A short time ago, it may be a month—a "*little month*" as Shakspeare has it—the Committee, a part of whose labours I detailed to you in my last, determined on taking up the flagged pathway, and selling the old flags, of which they gave notice by hand bills. Simple a thing as this appears to be, they made what some people would call a *capital blunder* in this part of their business, for they actually took up the flags of an individual, whose patience had long been exhausted, at finding the *road* so bad, and who therefore had, some time ago, been at the expence of repairing that part of the pathway just opposite to his own premises. These flags of his they sold with their own; and I have heard him threaten to put some one of the Corporation into the Court of Requests, if they do not pay the value of his flags. As soon as the proprietors of the property in the neighbourhood found what was going on, they naturally enough made complaints about such shameful proceedings, particularly as the pathway was left in a state *dangerous* to those who had business or pleasure calling them in that direction—especially was the danger increased at night time, since no lamps were lighted, nor was there any guide to warn the unwary traveller, that in that direction he could not "*pursue the even tenor of his way*." To shew you that this is no imaginary case, I will detail to you what really occurred to a friend of mine on the evening preceding that when *the Mansion-House was not illuminated*.—He had been in the country for a short time, and returned by the mail at night. Residing in Drypool, and knowing nothing of what had occurred in his absence, he fearlessly crossed the North Bridge, and, turning the corner into Union-street, he soon found himself very awkwardly situated on a pathway of softish mud instead of flags. Now, if this gentleman had unfortunately broken any of his bones, where would have been his redress? and I leave you and the public to judge if this is likely to be a *solitary* instance of danger. Look at the "shocking" inconvenience, to say the least of it, of being prevented getting into your own house, without being "*over shoes*," if not "*over boots*;" and being obliged, for protection and cleanliness, to lay down a number of planks upon the pathway—which one of the parties actually did—

and, to complete this part of the business in the most annoying way to him which they could possibly devise, they actually took up the scrapers before his own door! "The force of nature could no farther go," says the poet—nor do I think the force of Corporate ingenuity, stimulated by revenge, could have hardly stooped to any thing lower than this last act. It was "the unkindest cut of all." The proprietors now remonstrated with the Committee on their proceedings, especially when they found that the pathway was going to be made of stones and not of flags, as it had hitherto been during the last thirty years; in answer to which, they were told that the Committee were not bound to make a new pathway of flags; it was sufficient for them if they made a pathway at all; and, as they found it would cost £46 less to stone the pathway rather than to flag it, and would annoy those proprietors in particular at the same time, who had baulked them so neatly about the Hedon turnpike trust, they had resolved to do so. The affair then began to be publicly talked about—and "*public opinion*" running so strongly against the Committee, they resolved to pause awhile, and rest from their labours. At last, after letters and interviews had passed between the proprietors and the Committee, the former were *given to understand*, that if they would ask as a favour what they had most justly demanded as a right, it should be granted to them. This they scorned to accede to—so the Committee resolved to prosecute their labours as they had originally intended. The matter having now assumed a most disagreeable aspect, (for, during these discussions time was wasting, and no fewer than fourteen days were suffered to elapse before *any improvement* of the road took place) the Churchwardens and Overseers, together with a many respectable inhabitants of Drypool, signed a document, containing a request, couched in respectful language, that, as a *matter of favor*, they, the Committee, would oblige them by forming the footway of flags, and doing it immediately:—thereby removing an inconvenience which they and their friends were daily and hourly experiencing. It was soon perceived by the Committee, that amongst the signatures to this request from the inhabitants of Drypool, not one was to be found of those who were the chief proprietors of ground on the west side of Union-street. The Committee then resolve to pursue their own course, and commence laying down stones instead of flags—in defiance of "*public opinion*," and the wishes of all the inhabitants of Drypool. The proprietors then threaten the Committee

with an action at law, if they persevere in not forming the pathway of flags—this brings them to a stand, and a Council is held to consider what is best to be done—at which Council they actually come to the following *notable* resolution, a resolution worthy of so *profound* a body, and richly deserving a special place in the columns of the Portfolio. I shall not give you an actual copy of the resolution, but merely the substance of it, and a *precious substance* it is. The Committee say, that, at the suggestion of the bench—(and mark you, this is where all *their wisdom* is concentrated) they are willing to waive their right of making the pathway as they chuse, (that is, of stones or of any materials which they may think fit) *although in doing so, they are abusing their trust*—(yet, about this, they care not a farthing, when backed by so powerful a body) if the proprietors of the ground (those impracticable men in Union-street) will only ask the thing *as a favor*, and not demand it *as a right*. Now here is an *acknowledgement in writing*, that these gentry who stickle so much for “things as they are” and not as they should be;—these men, whose loyalty to doubt, is treason to the state—will actually *abuse a public trust*, if it only be demanded of them as a *matter of favor*. Well might *Job* exclaim, “Oh! that my enemy would *write a book*.” How stands the matter then at present? you will most likely ask. Why, just in this way:—one-third of the pathway is fresh paved with stones;—one-third, with the old flags;—and one-third, with temporary planks upon the mud;—and this is suffered to continue, day after day—and night after night—unaccompanied by any light to guide the unlucky wight in his midnight rambles *home*. One would think that common sense would dictate to the Committee, to put a lamp or two out at night, to guard against accidents; but this, I suppose, does not enter into their calculations, as the road leads to no Alderman’s house, nor from any of their favorite dinner haunts. Thus stands the matter at present; but how will it stand very shortly? I may venture to predict, without the gift of prophecy, that in one month, aye, as I before said, “*a little month*,” the Committee will be *compelled* to make the pathway of flags, as it has before been—to take up the stones which are already laid down, and replace them with flags—and thus will this affair end, by a *complete defeat* of the Committee of two Corporations—whose *united wisdom* will not soon be forgotten by the *good folks* in Drypool. To what are we to attribute these effects? Certainly to the spirited conduct of those individuals in Union-street, who have thus

manfully come forward and opposed the Corporations in their exactions and their overbearing proceedings. Thus defeated on land, I trust you may defeat them by water; and then may you continue to sail by the “*Victory*,” to your own benefit and the public advantage, is the sincere wish of

Your’s, &c.

A VICTIM TO THE SYSTEM.

HULL, September 21st, 1831.

—oo—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

MR. EDITOR,—In your Portfolio of the 17th instant, I perceive with regret your attack upon one of our Corporation, for a debt due to Mr. Leonard, butcher. This really is too bad. Why should private affairs come under your severe lash? Every man (and you amongst the rest, no doubt) owes more or less; and if what every person owes was to be looked into, and subjected to your censure, an end would be put to all business, or nearly so; for who likes to have their concerns made public? Besides, you surely take no thought of the injury you may inflict. Suppose a person thus exposed should be on the eve of failing, would not your observations tend greatly to bring such an event to pass? I think it would; and what would be gained by your exposition? It would be surely making bad worse. If people cannot or do not choose to pay their debts, it is none of your business or mine. The law is open; let the aggrieved party take up his own cudgels and defend himself as he may, without your troubling yourself about the matter. Let me advise you to stick to your text, that is, go on reforming *public* abuses, as long as you can; for this you have not only my good wishes, but also those of many more, and if you think you can do good, I pray you persevere, and let us have “the bill, the whole bill, and nothing but the bill:” but I would advise you to steer clear of private affairs, lest may be applied to you the old adage,

“Those who in quarrels interpose,
Must often wipe a bloody nose.”

Now, Sir, as you profess to be candid, I beg you will insert this in your next; and if you can vindicate yourself I shall be glad.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F.

HULL, September 19th, 1831.

—oo—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—I should not have taken the liberty of addressing you, but observing the publication in your last Saturday’s Portfolio, respecting the debt due to Leonard, butcher, of this place, I thought a little advice might be of much service to you. The Portfolio being the topic of the present day,

I enquired of different subscribers their opinion as to the merits and demerits of its contents; and find without even an exception, that in the above instance, your conduct is disapproved of. You must allow that the law is open for Mr. Leonard, as well as any other person; and why does he not resort to it, if the debt be a just one? 'Twas mean on his part, and, I must confess, that, on yours, (but perhaps unpremeditated) ungenerous. For the preservation of your good name (as I verily believe it is already acquired) I would advise you not to dabble at all in private affairs; but let Mr. Leonard pursue some other means for the recovery of his debt. By a continuance of such conduct as the above, you would become a terror to the inhabitants of the town.

Tuesday Morning.

AMICUS POPULI.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—The trite old saying with which you opened your Portfolio, "What is everybody's business is nobody's business," was extremely applicable in the sense in which you used it. But allow me to ask you, if it can with any propriety be repeated in reference to the case of Mr. W. W. Leonard, butcher? If that individual has so large a sum due to him from "A certain Alderman," as you state in your publication of Saturday last, I suppose he is aware that by swearing to the debt and arresting the debtor, he can recover both debt and costs: but what *you* or the *public* have to do with this man's debts or credits I am at a loss to determine.

In the undertaking in which you are engaged you state (No. 5) "that you may risk all and lose all from an undue confidence or a divided attention"; and I see that it will require *great judgment* as well as *perseverance* to steer the barque of public opinion. Do not, therefore, risk the safety of the voyage by bringing to at the hail of every cock-boat that sails from the ports of private malice and secret revenge. Depend upon it, if you do, you will be swamped.

But to quit the metaphor.—Permit me to remind you, that domestic privacy has ever been held sacred by the press—be it Whig or Tory—at least the respectable part of it; and let me advise you not to loose the hold you have gained in public opinion, by giving rise to suspicions of the *integrity* of your conduct. I am, be assured, no friend to Corporation monopoly; and I would suggest to you that Corporators, even in the opinion of the author you quote, may be

"* * — immaculate perhaps
in all their *private* functions."

Stick, then, to your text, and apply yourself to the detection and exposure of *public* abuses, and you will not want friends on this side the water to support you, among whom you may reckon your obedient servant,

BARTON, September 20th, 1831.

MENTOR.

MEM TO THE THREE PRECEDING LETTERS:—*It would seem that my correspondents imagine the Portfolio to be dependant on the patronage of those who, without the excuse of insolvency, perpetrate the injustice of withholding from the honest tradesman that which is his due. Of such readers I care not how few I have. I imagine that I know what I am about; and I believe that in the present instance I am right, and that I can shew my honest readers that I am so. If I succeed in this, I shall not grieve at the dissatisfaction of those fastidious gentlemen, who, in their great anxiety for the inviolability of private character, would suffer the public curse of impunity for private wrong.*

The Alderman charged with keeping a tradesman without his money for nearly thirty years, is known to every person in Hull. The amount of such bill is £34 16s. The claim is for meat supplied to the household of the Alderman in the years 1800, 1801, and 1802. The Alderman has long since changed his butcher. The last account delivered was, I believe, in 1817, and I am prepared to prove by two witnesses, that the worshipful debtor then acknowledged it to be just. Why then does not the creditor sue him for the debt? In the first place, although the law is open to all men, it is no more so than an expensive hotel, where every customer is made to pay more for his accommodation than it is worth; and, in the second place, the creditor could not recover his claim in a court of law, unless he could prove the admission of his debt within the period of six years preceding the institution of his suit.

So much for the unadorned facts of the case. As to the question whether or not I have public grounds for my exposure of this injustice, let me observe, that as an Alderman of Hull, he also is a Magistrate—that as a Magistrate he is bound to be impartial, and that impartiality cannot be maintained, if the judge be not independent of the parties between whom he has to adjudicate. These positions admitted, as admitted they must be, let any unprejudiced individual say whether if Leonard, the butcher, were complainant or defendant before this Alderman, the latter could be reasonably expected to deal even-handed justice in the matter before him. I am quite as much a public character as the Magistrate of whom I complain: appeals to my sense of justice are quite as frequent as those to his—and, in order to preserve my independence that I may be impartial, unfettered, and unbiassed, I prefer making cash payments for every thing I have, to subjecting myself to the obligation of long credit and oft evaded demands. May I not, therefore, presume to teach this Magistrate a lesson? Shall he be shielded from truth by the flimsy pretext that a public character may act unjustly without prejudice to the magisterial station he occupies, and without subjecting himself to the judgment of the public, whom otherwise (for so must run the argument) he might defraud with impunity, so that he defraud them individually and severally? Not whilst I have the Portfolio! Not whilst I am supported by public opinion. ED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

MR. EDITOR,—In looking over your Portfolio No. 4, I find you or your friends have had a peep behind the Corpo-

ration curtain. I had a corner of the curtain lifted up by one of their fraternity; and lo! I discovered the cloven foot. He informed me there was once a block-house, a place of defence in olden times, situate at the north-east corner of the North Bridge, leading into Holderness, on the east side of the river Hull. The Mayor for the time being and Aldermen, appointed this gentleman (one of their Brotherhood) to proceed to London, and wait on the Board of Ordnance, whose property the piece of ground on which the block-house stood was, to beg it of them, in the name of the Corporation of Hull, for the purpose of *enlarging and improving* the said bridge and its entrance on that side.—He also informed me that he was very fortunate, that the Board of Ordnance had granted his request on these conditions.

Now, observe how the Corporation have fulfilled their engagement, for, after they got possession of this piece of ground, it was made a landing place for gravel, brought by small vessels from Spurn, &c. for the purpose of repairing the roads, and was let at a very considerable rent. A few years ago, the Corporation, instead of applying the ground as was intended—for the public good—built a large extensive warehouse, which is now standing, and goes by the name of the Corporation warehouse. No doubt; at the time they erected this building, they thought that the public was not aware how they came into possession of the ground, and, by appropriating it to their own use, no one would be the wiser; but truth will find its way some time or another; and when it does, it generally is to the discomfiture of those who wish to act wrong. As an inducement for them to build, they supposed that the ground having formerly belonged to Government, such buildings would be free of taxation, from which cause they could demand a greater rent in proportion—and even to this day it is not taxed like other property. After building the warehouse, there was a screed of ground remaining, extending from the warehouse down towards a street called the Groves. Finding it was over narrow to build a range of dwelling-houses, without encroaching on the then narrow entrance to the bridge, and also finding how they were situated, they did not hesitate, but encroached many feet into the street, and erected those dwelling-houses and shops as you may see at the present moment, as many of the neighbours can testify—they also, I am informed, are free of taxation. I have heard that the rental of this property is above £500 per annum; so that what was intended for *public good* is now *converted into private property*.

I am, your's,

A. B.

QUERY.—If the ground that the Corporation had given to them by the Board of Ordnance, for the purpose of improving and enlarging the North Bridge and its entrance, is *tax free*, on account of it having belonged to Government, surely that part which they encroached on the street is taxable, and will bring the whole of the houses into the tax-gatherer's books.

MEM:—*Nothing of this kind surprises me so much as the grovelling submissiveness of the people of Hull, to the infinite variety of robberies perpetrated by their Corporate lords and masters. How is it that those guardians of the public rights, the gentlemen of the public press, have not exposed this and the hundred other impositions which I have been or shall be instrumental in bringing to light. Answer this, George Lee.—You, who are the Prince of Whigs and a professed Reformer, answer this.* Ed.

—00—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—There is in this town, a house called the Trinity-House, erected some hundred years ago, for the relief of seamen that are unfit for the merchant service: to speak truly, it was indeed erected by seamen, for the support of themselves, their widows, and the education of their small children, and sixpence per month is taken from every seaman's wages that sails from the port. How far they act as honest men I will leave you to judge. I was bound to the sea in the year 1777, and I was, by a multiplicity of accidents, unfit for service of any kind in the year 1829. From the year 1798 to the year 1829, a period of thirty-one years, I paid the sailor's fee into this same Trinity-House; and, now that I am old and cannot work to earn my own bread, I must go to the Workhouse for that relief I am denied at the Trinity-House. Now, good Sir, my reason for writing to you is this: What right or honesty can there be in the Elder Brethren and Wardens in this Trinity-House, to extort the sixpence per month from a sailor, and then refuse him relief in case of shipwreck? If any sailor, that is a foremast-man, should previous to being shipwrecked, have paid his sixpence per month for fourteen years, he, the sailor or sailors, will receive the paltry sum of five shillings as a compensation. If you will be so kind as look into the History of Hull, you will find an exact account how the sailors are to be taken care of, better than I can tell you. In the year 1829, I came from London to Hull. I applied for relief at the Trinity-House, William Collinson being Warden; he said to me, "I shall not give you any thing, you may go to the Workhouse." Was this acting right by me? I have been master-mariner, and likewise mate out of this port, and I have paid whatever was required from sailors filling those stations; and then to be denied my rights is a calamity, a disgrace that I hope you will make public. I believe there is a good nest of them; and for a certain number of men to act as they do (who would not be thought to do wrong) not only to me but many others, and not to meet with punishment equal to their deserts, is what surprises me. However, I hope you will make it public. From your humble servant,

JEREMIAH JENNISON.

HULL, September 18th, 1831.

MEM:—*The distressed sailor ought to be aware of the inability of the Trinity-House gentlemen to act as he would seem to wish them. If they wastefully expended the sailors' sixpences as poor Jeremiah would have them, they might come to want—that is, to want those necessaries of subsistancy, venison—salmon—claret and champagne!* Ed.

DICKEY GOSSIP'S LETTER, (which may be said or sung) TO
HIS COUSIN AT YORK.

You ask me to tell you the news,
What passes in Hull conversation ;
And as I can scarcely refuse,
I reply---tis our great CORPORATION.
These worthies had long rul'd the roast,
And lived on the best in the nation,
At their feasts they'd a bumper each toast,
As befitted a fat CORPORATION.
They ate, drank, and stuff'd themselves full,
Once a month,* as it came in rotation ;
Lo! thus did their worships of Hull,
As well suited a great CORPORATION.
Many ages have pass'd, and they still
Carous'd in a jovial potation,
While each jolly soul had his fill,
For sure 'twas a rich CORPORATION.
"But who paid the piper, the while?"
You ask me in some consternation ;
I answer, and answering smile ;
Rest assur'd *not* the great CORPORATION.
They've funds, which were left them of yore,
That amount, on a low computation,
To ten thousand *per annum*, or more,
So you see 'tis a rich CORPORATION.
"But these funds"---nay, no questions, dear Coz,
I dislike any such botheration ;
The funds were---ah, no, only buzz :
They belong to the whole CORPORATION.
There lately came hither a man,
Bringing with him great store of vexation,
And doing all one mortal can,
To bewilder our wise CORPORATION.
A feather he pluck'd from their wing,
Which he wore at the late coronation ;
Some think him the fam'd Captain Swing,
Come to ruin the said CORPORATION.
So we all are perplex'd and amaz'd,
For he talks much about peculation ;
And the Mayor and his menials are craz'd,
And so are the whole CORPORATION.
We wish that the cholera would come
From the North, where it now has its station ;
And dismiss, without heating a drum,
This plague of our good CORPORATION.
He has seiz'd on the old Barton ferry,
'Midst cheering and congratulation ;
And daily goes there in his wherry†,
Annoying the HULL CORPORATION.

P. S.---The public are with him, that's flat,
For he preaches against domination
O'er the poor, by some over-fed rat,
In every old rich CORPORATION.

He next talks of taking a stall,
Not fearing the least molestation,
And he swears he will never pay toll !
What will come of our poor CORPORATION ?

Hull, Tuesday morning.

* For month, read fortnight. † For wherry, read steamer.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—If your correspondent, "a Bartonian" who enquires whether "the post-master of Barton can legally make a charge of one penny for the delivery of letters,"—(provided he be not a member of the law) borrow of his professional gentleman the Acts of Parliament, and reports of cases, as mentioned below, he will find the charge is *illegal*, unless agreed upon between the inhabitants and the Postmaster General, at some subsequent period, that "a penny" shall be paid for the delivery of each letter.

Acts above referred to:—

12th Charles II. c. 35.

9th Ann c. 10. sects. 17. 39 and 40.

Cases as above referred to:—

Rowning v. Goodchild, (see Vox Recta's letter No. 4)

2 Blackstone's Reports, 907.

Lane v. Sir Robt. Cotton and others. 1 Ld. Raymond's Reports, 650, 651, 655.

Martin v. Ford. 5th. Term Report 101.

The act of 5th Geo. III. states that a survey must be made by Post-masters, as to the limits of delivery, before the charge of one penny can be made. I am, Sir, your's, &c.

HULL, Sept. 20th, 1831.

AMICUS.

MY NOTE-CASE.

MEM:—*Those who would participate in the healthful operation of the river breeze by a trip to Barton on Sunday (to-morrow), may be assured that Public Opinion will safely carry them from the dense atmosphere of this thickly peopled town to the pure air of Lincolnshire, as frequently as the distance between Hull and Barton will permit. If I can succeed in bringing the Hero from Gainsborough in time, the accommodation of two packets will be offered them; but at all events they may calculate on a passage every other hour of that day, from seven in the morning (from Hull) to nine in the evening (from Barton).*

ED.

MEM:—*If my able correspondents had not enabled me to present my readers with so valuable a miscellany of local information, I should have felt myself compelled to apologize for my continued inability to write as much as I desire, and ought, to write on the subject of local grievances. I trust, however, that a few days will in some measure liberate me from the pen-enthraling engagements by which, for the past fortnight, I have been as it were spell-bound.*

ED.

"A CONSTANT READER'S" communication respecting the dinner at the Trinity-House, on the day of Coronation, came too late for insertion this week.

ED.

Subscriptions to support Mr. Acland in his present and future exertions to destroy the Corporate monopolies, are received by Mr. Noble, and at Mr. Watson's Coffee-house ; where books are kept for insertion of names and signatures.

JOSEPH NOBLE, PRINTER, HULL.

THE **Hull Portfolio;**

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES ACLAND.

—❦—
“*Bonis nocet quisquis pepercerit malis.*”—CICERO.
HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING, BY JAMES ACLAND,
SOLE PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR, NO. 3, MYTONGATE, HULL.

Vol. 1.—No. 7:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1831.

Twopence.

Notice.

The mass of important intelligence which daily pours in upon me, together with the almost infinite variety of subjects which demand my immediate attention and active interference, make it imperative that I provide sufficient means for the attainment of as great a proportion of public good as may be practicable.

I have therefore determined that henceforth two numbers of the “PORTFOLIO” shall be published weekly—one on the Wednesday, the other on the Saturday: this arrangement commencing immediately, and No. 8, being prepared for publication on Wednesday next, the fifth of October instant.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE PEOPLE OF HULL.

FRIENDS,—The Monopolists are still playing their childish game of intimidation. They abound in professions of prosecution. They think to frighten the unthinking and the timid by threats of legal vengeance. Really this is absolutely ridiculous after what has passed in the business to which it has reference. These gentlemen must certainly be utterly void of that uncommon qualification which is misnamed common sense—for in their every act they but plunge more deeply in the miry ditch of absurdity and ridicule. At the upper end of the Jetty built by public subscription but claimed by them as private property and over which they would refuse a passage to those who actually subscribed towards its erection, unless they paid them a shilling each for crossing the Humber—at the upper end of this Jetty there are exhibited, on the top of an oar, two black boards—back to back—with an inscription on each. On the board facing the river there is the following specimen of acuteness:—

“Notice is hereby given that any person passing to or from any vessel *not belonging to the Ferries*, and trespassing on this ground will be prosecuted according to law.”

Now, by whom is this notice given? There is no signature, and anonymous notices are unworthy either our attention or our respect. However, this notice cannot possibly affect either myself or those travelling by my Steamers, for, it refers only to boats and vessels which do not belong to the Ferries—whereas mine do, inasmuch as they convey, at the least, three-fourths of the Ferry passengers. But the poor devils who may happen to act in defiance of this formidable notice, by landing from the sloops or ships trading on the river, are to be prosecuted by somebody who is ashamed of his name (and well he may be)—and, which is very remarkable, prosecuted according to law! May I ask, what law? May I beg to be informed of the section of the Chapter of the Statute under which the Monopolists dare threaten men, women, and children with prosecution, because they have landed from a steam boat where the owner of that boat has risked the landing of such passengers—to wit:—on a public jetty, erected by public subscription and abutting on a road repaired by the parish? By what statute threaten you thus, Sirs? If not by the Charter of impudence, I know of no other authority on which you can build even the shadow of a case.

But there is another board, as I have before stated, and the inscription upon which runs thus sensibly:—

“Notice is hereby given, that any person passing to or from any boat or vessel not belonging to the ferries, trespassing on this ground, will be prosecuted according to law.”

This is a very different affair, and refers only to such passengers as may happen to be in a vessel, which, by chance or otherwise, may trespass on the jetty in question. Nay,

I am not, I am sure that this notice was not painted with a prophetic spirit. Might there not be witchcraft in it, and is it not an important consideration for the sage lawyers of these Corporate monopolists whether an action might not lie against the writers, painters, and exhibitors of this infernal incantation, for the damage to my vessel on Monday last? And now I am on this subject, I beg to tender my grateful thanks to the Editors of the Hull newspapers, for their kind mention of the unfortunate affair. It evinces a renovated industry and an especial activity on their part to cater for the information, if not the edification, of the public. But these recorders of facts might have added to their account, that there were ninety-six passengers on board (most of them ladies) and that every one of them were landed in ignorance of the danger—that the Captain Crew, and owner remained on board in discharge of their duty—that the injury sustained was effectively repaired before the vessel returned to Hull, and that the repairs now going forward are solely calculated to increase the speed and improve the appearance of the vessel. This might have been stated with perfect truth, whilst, on the other hand, it could not be said that either the Captain or owner stripped off his jacket to swim from the vessel and passengers—or that either of them jumped upon the Jetty or into a brig, leaving the passengers to find their way home, or to the bottom of the Humber, as well, or as ill, as they might. Yet these things have happened on board the Chartered Packets, as they are miscalled, without exciting the Hull Editors to so unusual an activity as that now manifested by those impartial gentlemen; and if there be any need for further particulars, Captain Bennett of the Venerable, may be referred to, he having taken charge of the deserted vessel and brought her and his fellow passengers to Hull in safety. I shall only add that the present Captain of the Royal Charter was the Captain of the imposition packet at the period alluded to.

I cannot allow myself to close this notice of the late accident, without recording my most grateful acknowledgments to Mr. Walkden, the acting lessee under the Corporation, for his prompt direction to Mr. Parkinson, Captain Rhodes, and all under them, to render us every assistance in their power. Mr. Walkden felt and acted as a man and a gentleman. His wishes were most ably seconded by Mr. Parkinson, and Captain Rhodes obeyed the orders he received, *because*, as he himself observed, if the Public Opinion was not cleared from the jetty, the Royal Charter could not

land her passengers on her return from Hull, the tide being on the ebb.

Strict justice compels me to observe further that this man has so frequently attempted to injure my vessels and to endanger the safety of my passengers by every paltry and unmanly means within his power, that I conscientiously believe he would rather have seen the Public Opinion a wreck than have contributed to her assistance—but for the certain consequence of such dereliction of his duty—a discharge from the very lucrative employment of gentlemen who cannot retain him in their service much longer, unless they are prepared to participate in the odium of which his misconduct is but too certainly productive.

The Packet under repair will not be completed before Tuesday next, at the soonest; but the Reformer will continue running at seven, ten, one, and four o'clock, daily from Hull, leaving Barton on its return at half-past eight, half-past eleven, three, and half-past six o'clock.

As respects to-morrow (Sunday) the hours of our departure from Hull will be seven, and ten in the forenoon, one, and four in the afternoon, and eight in the evening; those of our departure from Barton, half-past eight and half-past eleven in the forenoon, three in the afternoon, and half-past six and nine o'clock in the evening.

JAMES ACLAND.

THE BOLTON FAMILY.

It is due to his Aldermanic brethren that I state the individual to whom I have more than once alluded with reference to the claim of Mr. Leonard, to be the worshipful W. W. Bolton, Alderman and Magistrate of this town. As I have written nothing but the truth, and not even the whole truth of this most unprofitable customer, I do not see why his worshipful brother Christopher should devote his Sundays to the pitiful employment of tearing my placards, respecting the "Public Opinion" from the walls. That they have neither of them any regard for public opinion I can very readily imagine; and perhaps they may have begun to discover they are not exceedingly popular. If not, they will shortly arrive at that conclusion, and see, without the aid of a quizzing-glass, the Corporate crowns reversed, and the Trinitarian usurpation destroyed.

At all events, the people of Hull are quite surfeited with this precious family of monopolists, and will have no more of them at any price—and without price it is very well known we should have none of them. They would be a dear bargain at a groat the cart load of them! J. A.

HULL AND BARTON FERRY.

(Concluded from page 43.)

About the year 1813 or 1814, a great revolution took place in the passage of the Humber, by the introduction of steam packets, the conveniences of which were such that it became the interest of the lessees that a steam packet should be provided for the ferries between Hull and Barton; and upon that event also it became necessary to make additional accommodations for landing; that the packet, instead of once or twice, might come three or four times a day, without reference to the tide, an advantage that at the same time enabled them to regulate and improve their mode of arrangement with their coaches. At this period the lessees laid down a new staith or jetty from the Humber Bank, at a spot where a former public staith or jetty stood, and they continued it down to the low water mark, having first advertised it as a work intended for the accommodation of the public, and towards the expence of which, upon their solicitations for that purpose, the public subscribed. After the employment of the steam boat, it was discovered that an additional expence was incurred by the increased accommodation so provided by the lessees, for which they considered themselves entitled to some additional remuneration, either by some deduction from their rent of the ferry, or by an increase of fares; and on this occasion, we presume, it was that the Corporation, unwilling to reduce their rent, took the now notable and most conclusive opinions of their respectable Recorder, and the present Judge Allan Park, and whence, in despite of those opinions and of all public remonstrances, they raised the fares to 1s. each way; though this was after, (we presume in deference to public opinion) reduced to 1s. going and 6d. returning the same day, as at present. And it having only now come to light what those opinions were, and that according to their own Counsel, they, the Corporation, had no sufficient authority for the impositions they laid on the public, but that they ought to have made their allowance to their sub-lessees from their rent, the discovery has created a fresh altercation between the public and the lessees; and not only with regard to the fares, but also to the right of landing on the staith or jetty lately made from the public river bank down the foreshore, the lessees claiming such jetty as private property. The public, without reference to the party disputes about the fares, contend, that, as this work was made for public convenience, and that a public subscription was raised towards its erection, they, the public, have an undoubted right to pass over it as convenient to them. It is here to be observed, that upon the inclosure of Barton in 1792, the then owners of the water-side house had a specific allotment of six acres three roods twenty-six perches of land made to them *in the Ings* of Barton, adjoining on the west to the *old inclosure*, and which allotment included the Grews, as the grass land outside the Humber Bank, is called; in front of such allotment. There was, at the time of the inclosure, and still is a space of rich grass land outside the public bank, and this allotment

the present owners now contend, extended not only in front thereof, but eastward over the frontage of their old inclosure, including the ground on which their new jetty is placed. But this allotment is described as being in the Ings, and although bounded on the east by the ferry allowed to the Crown, it does not follow that the allotment was made to extend over the whole frontage of their old inclosure, which was no part of the Ings; at the same time, if such had actually been the case, they (the proprietors) from neglect, have long since suffered the tide to wash it away, and for many years there has been no grass land there beyond the public river bank, which the town of Barton has been, at a great expence, obliged to keep up and preserve. It is, however, well known to the inhabitants, that there was an *ancient staith or jetty*, at this very spot where the new jetty is placed, which was then and theretofore called the Coward Dock. And upon referring to the counter part of the lease of the town's property at the water side to Messrs. Etherington and others, the parties from whom the present proprietors purchased the waterside house property, this question of right appears in its proper light. This lease is dated the 20th May, 1773, and made between Robert Jackson, Clerk, then Vicar of Barton, John Harper, Richard Caville, John Taylor, and William Alcock, Churchwardens, William Falkner, John Hayes, and William Hutchinson, Overseers of the Poor, James Bygott, Foreman of the Jury, John Sheriffe, William Shaw, John Foster, Thomas Marshall, Thomas Coupland, Thomas Nicholson, Richard Cavill, Martin Robinson, Field Dunn, John Burnett, Thomas Pinney, William Ruddeforth, Edward Johnson, Joseph Cooke, and John Fulstow, the rest of the Jurymen of Barton, for themselves and the rest of the inhabitants of the town of Barton aforesaid, of the one part, and Thomas Chambers, of Kingston-upon-Hull, merchant, Robert Etherington, of Gainsbro', merchant, and Thomas Hardy, of Goxhill, gentleman, of the other part, and whereby, in consequence of the rents and covenants therein reserved and contained; they, the said Vicar and Churchwardens, &c. did demise to the said Chambers, Etherington, and Hardy, all those several buildings, then used as stables, with the ground thereto belonging, commonly called the Town's Houses, &c. *Also, all that building, situate nearer the Humber, upon the common ground, and called by the name of the Warehouse, and then in the tenure or occupation of Susannah Nicholson*; except and always reserving to the said Vicar, Churchwardens, and inhabitants of Barton, at all times during the said term, to lay up, put in, and fetch out, all and all manner of goods and wares into or out of the said warehouse, when and so often as occasion should require: to hold for a term of thirty-six years, from the 12th day of May then next, under the yearly rent of £10; to be paid to the said Vicar, Churchwardens, &c. for the use of the poor of Barton aforesaid. And amongst other covenants in the said indenture contained, is one that they the said Thomas Chambers, Robert Etherington, and Thomas Hardy, the executors, administrators, or assigns, or some of them, should and would, at their own proper costs and charges, from time to time, and at all times thereafter during the said term thereby demised, when and as often as need should be and require,

NOT ONLY well and sufficiently repair, uphold, maintain, and amend and keep the aforesaid buildings and all other edifices whatsoever which then were or *thereafter should be erected and built upon the said demised premises*, or any part thereof, BUT SHOULD ALSO, from time to time, and at all times during the said term, well and sufficiently maintain, support, and keep in repair, the jetty or staith now standing at the north end of the close belonging to the house called the Waterside House, against the River Humber, and commonly called by the name of the Coward Dock, in, by, and with all and all manner of needful and necessary reparations and amendments whatsoever; and the said buildings, warehouses, and all and singular other the premises hereby demised, *so being in and by all things well and sufficiently repaired and amended as aforesaid, at the end, expiration, or other sooner determination of this present lease, should and would peaceably and quietly leave, surrender, and yield up unto the said Vicar, Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Jurymen, and their successors for the time being.*

Then follows a covenant that the lessees should every Tuesday and Friday night, put up a light to light, the boats home from Hull, &c.

It is now to be observed, that the warehouse referred to in this lease, stood upon the waste near to the present new jetty, and was erected for the convenience of boat passengers; wherein to deposit and put into shelter their goods and wares on their way from Hull, until such time as they could conveniently get them removed. Upon the inclosure in 1796, this warehouse was taken away, and an equivalent granted for it next the haven, on the frontage ground opposite to the town's houses, and thereupon the land on which the warehouse stood, and the land about it, was granted to the Crown by the Commissioners, in their award dated 25th August, 1796, as follows:—"We the said Commissioners have set out and allotted, and do hereby award to and for the King's most excellent Majesty, all and also all that other allotment or parcel of land, containing one acre two roods thirty perches, statute measure, being waste land next the haven and the river Humber, and bounded by the haven on the east, and south by ancient inclosures of Robert Etherington and others, in part, and an allotment awarded to them in other part on the west, and by the River Humber on the north. Subject nevertheless and without prejudice to the public road and highway called the Waterside Road,* herein before set out and awarded over this allotment, and to other the roads, ways, staiths, and landing places thereof. And also subject and without prejudice to the free use and privilege of the trustees of the town's houses in Barton (for the time being) for ever, in and to the space of sixty square yards of land on this allotment, opposite to the said town's houses, and near to the haven of Barton aforesaid, as we have staked out the same for the purpose of erecting buildings thereon or otherwise, for the sole use and benefit of the said trustees and their successors and assigns, without paying any rent or compensation for the same, in lieu of the ancient building or warehouse, and privileges heretofore had and used by them upon the said part of the same allotment, the materials

* The award describes this road as "one public road and highway," &c.

whereof, we direct and appoint may be had and taken away by the said trustees. And we do direct and appoint that no fences or other obstructions shall be made or raised upon the said last-mentioned allotment of one acre two roods and thirty perches, so as in any wise to prevent or obstruct the free passage of any person or persons, or of their horses, carriages; or cattle, going or coming to or from the ferries, or any boats or vessels in the haven of Barton aforesaid. And we declare that the said allotment of one acre two roods and thirty perches so awarded to his said Majesty, is allotted subject as aforesaid in lieu of such lands and property as were belonging to the ferry of Barton aforesaid, held by lease under his said Majesty."

Considering that the proprietors of the Waterside House have continued to hold the town property as lessees, long after the inclosure, their lease not expiring until 1810, and that they still hold the same property—(though at an increased rent and under the implied terms only of the old lease, which has not formally been renewed)—if the staith at the Coward Dock was not included in the allotment and exchanged with the Crown, as understood to be, it still remains the public property of the town of Barton; and the mound raised upon its site by the present proprietors, can only be considered as in accordance with their covenant for that purpose. The great public convenience of this new jetty, it must at the same time be confessed, has almost superseded the use, so far as passengers are concerned, of the old landing places opposite the Waterside House, and they, from their decay, exhibit a store of corresponding neglect. Whichever way, therefore, the question is taken, it appears to resolve itself into public property, either included in the allotment or foreshore belonging the Crown, or as still belonging to the public property of the town of Barton.

As to the agreement between the lessees and the Corporation of Hull, the public are no parties to it. There is no doubt but the lessees have an equal claim upon the Corporation as their successors, for allowance towards any additional expence they may have been at in the improvement of their accommodations, as they have for the boats.

Considering also, that from the time of timesday to the present period, the fares and tolls of these ferries, have been the subject of disputation, whenever a monopoly had been obtained therein; we have long concluded that no lasting good can be effected without a regulation by Act of Parliament, on which subject it has been, and is the intention of the inhabitants to memorialize the Commissioners of the Crown property; unless, as may be now likely, the Crown should interpose, and take up the matter themselves.

It is worthy of remark, that the very cause and consideration of the town of Hull obtaining its charter for a ferry across the Humber, was no other than the monopoly then enjoyed by the owners of the Barton ferry; and that as a check, and to counteract and balance its effects solely, was the Hull charter granted. Not having yet had a public meeting to determine finally our propositions as to what we consider the best means of effecting the improvements we have had in contemplation to suggest, we, for the present, conclude this our introduction to the subject.

We are, Sir, your obedient servants, A. B. C. D. &c.
Gentlemen of the Grand Jury of Barton-upon-Humber.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR.—I cannot refrain from expressing my disgust at the shameful conduct of the crew on board the Royal Charter, on Sunday afternoon last. Their behaviour on the passage was most disgraceful; but it was nothing compared to their brutal conduct at the public landing place, by fixing their rope purposely and unnecessarily in a situation to intercept the landing of the passengers by the Public Opinion, amounting to more than two hundred, whereby individuals' lives were placed in jeopardy by the pressure of the crowd, occasioned by that circumstance; and had it not been for your spirited behaviour in cutting the rope, it is impossible to say what would have been the consequence, and for so doing, I beg to return you my best thanks. I am of opinion, that, whatever the proprietors may think as to the situation they stand in with respect to your opposition, they are so far gentlemen as not to allow the lives of individuals to be endangered by such blackguard behaviour as their servants were guilty of on that occasion.

Your's, respectfully,

J. W.

HULL, September 27th, 1831.

MEM:—*The rope I cut was wilfully placed across the jetty, for the obvious purpose of obstructing the public crossing the ferry by my boats, and as I contend that the jetty is a public way, I removed such obstruction in the shortest and most effectual manner, in order first, to secure a safe landing to my passengers, and, secondly, to enable the Monopolists to try the right claimed by them—if they dare.*

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR.—There is an article in the "Hull Packet," regarding what is passing on the subject of the two ferries, which appears to us Bartonians to partake more of party spirit than of respect to truth; and, amidst the dreadful disorders that are reported to have taken place on Sunday evening week, a gross insult is stated to have been personally offered to the Mayor of Hull, and that in the town of Barton. Now, Sir, the town of Barton stands a mile from the waterside; but, owing to the great influx of strangers, parading up and down, several of us Bartonians walked down out of curiosity to see what was passing at the ferry, and were witnesses to the departure of the Charter, which, on its way out, backed to the Hessele staith, in order to take in a few of the Public Opinion's party, who felt, I presume, that it was getting late, and were anxious to get home before midnight. This was considered as a sort of desertion of party principle by some of their companions, and a violent hooting commenced, accompanied by a volley of soft mud pellets from the foreshore. So far from the attack being on the Mayor, he never made his appearance on deck after he embarked, nor did the assailants know that he was on board. Considering that the influx from Hull amounted to 1500 persons or more, it was matter of surprise that the excitement of the party did not break out in still greater irregularities than were committed. It is presumed we are getting more puritanical than formerly, or we may perhaps forget the ebullitions of former days, since it is still in the memory of the old inhabitants here, that before the fares were raised so as to check the importation, we had every Sunday afternoon, during the summer months, when the tide served, an influx of 300 or 400 visitors from Hull, who generally made the Swan Inn their head quarters, and good humour and smiling enjoyments were as characteristically displayed by them as by any of the holiday folks on a Sunday evening out of the city of London. I

have witnessed similar enjoyments on a Sunday afternoon on the Continent; and, without detracting from the sober enjoyment of an English Sunday, I must confess myself friendly to a little social indulgence to the lower orders of my own countrymen.

I am, AN OBSERVER.

BARTON, September 30th, 1831.

MEM:—*As the story was told me by an eye-witness, the master of the Charter, on the people hissing his passengers, held a boat-hook in a threatening position, accompanying such act with abusive language—whereupon those threatened gave said Captain a volley of stones.*

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR.—As you have slightly touched upon the Corporators of the town; perhaps at a future vacancy in your columns you may see good and find room to extend your information respecting the Government ground they got possession of by purchase or otherwise, situate and being about the Garrison. That on the west side thereof, they sold under guarantee to be extra parochial, in different allotments, when they were aware it was within the limits of the joint parishes of the Holy Trinity and St. Mary's of Hull, which had from time immemorial regularly supported the poor that became chargeable to the joint parishes both upon this ground and in the Garrison. The loss to the town by its not being assessed to the poor rates, &c. is not far short of, if not above, £1,000 yearly. Previous to the year 1810, an attempt was made to assess the different occupiers, who resisted the payment, because they had bought it as extra parochial. The cause got into the court at York in that year, but it went off by some means used, (perhaps by a good understanding between and amongst the Lawyers and Attornies for and against the Corporation), with a nonsuit in favour of the town. This certainly may be found among Mr. Frost's papers, as his father was the attorney for the occupiers, and also among the papers of Mr. Codd, as his father was the attorney for the town; and wonderful to tell, he was also at the same time attorney and clerk to the Corporation; and this land was sold in building allotments, &c. by him for the Corporation. In other places, Government lands, so soon as they become individual property, are rated and assessable to the maintenance of the poor. *The sale by the Corporation could not alter or change the tenure of the ground.* If the merits of the cause had been gone into, and the occupiers been cast, their resource would have been to reimburse themselves by turning upon the Corporation. Mr. Codd's situation (having two opposite interests to protect) must have been at the time perplexing, viz. that of the Corporation, and that of the town. Their worships must be saved. To enter upon the merits of the case was a great risk. A nonsuit was the only thing that could be done to save their Honours' honour! So it was—and so it has laid dormant ever since, and perhaps may do so for ever—but observe, it has been about £1,000 a year loss to the town ever since. Thus are the rights of the people protected, or one may rather say their property taken from them, in a manner almost imperceptible at the time. Is not this a robbery both of the poor and rich?

Your's, &c. AN OLD INHABITANT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—Your correspondent "A Victim to the System," will soon see his prediction verified—that the two Corporations will re-flag Union-street. The district in which Union-street is situated has been the scene of several Corporation defeats. I understand these immaculate bodies twice attempted to compel the proprietors of that district to pay poor rates, after selling the ground as *extra parochial*, and obtaining higher prices, in consideration of this advantage. Now, what can the public think of such habitual violators of the law? Are they fit persons for Magistrates? Do they commit these atrocious acts ignorantly, or to benefit the Town Clerk and the Secretary to the Trinity-House? I am inclined to think they are instigated by their lawyers—but this is no excuse for them, as they are endowed with reasoning faculties, if they will only condescend to use them. I am informed the Solicitors to both Corporations have given it as their decided opinion that the footpath in Union-street need not be flagged, *although it was a condition of sale*. If they have done so, it is evident they know nothing of law, or else wish to draw the Corporations into a law-suit, for their own personal advantage. It is not the first time they have been suspected of sacrificing the reputation of their employers for their private gain. Should the Corporation accounts ever be examined by a Committee of the House of Commons (which is sure to be the case if the Reform Bill passes) there will be such an *expose* as will astonish even the submissive people of Hull. It will then be seen what enormous sums have been paid out of the Corporation funds, that the inhabitants of this town may be annoyed with law.

I am, Sir, your humble servant, A. B. C.

P. S.—Every body appears to admit the truth of your remark that if our press had done its duty, our Corporations would never have become the nuisance they are. As our newspapers set such a value on Corporation favour, the public should discontinue purchasing them, and then it will be discovered whose patronage is most valuable.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—That sapient paper "The Packet," complains of the petition to the House of Lords, in favour of the Reform Bill being got up without a public meeting. If the Editor of that paper possessed only a small portion of common sense, he would never think of a public meeting for such a purpose in this Corporation-ridden town. *Would the wise-acre have the Mayor to call it?*

I certainly condemn the manner in which the petition was introduced to the public. The Reformers were not invited or consulted on the occasion, but the petition was drawn up by a few old Whigs, distinguished for their conceit, ignorance, and intolerance—in fact, by the party who caused Mr.

Geldard to insult you so grossly, and as the sequel prove so injuriously to himself.

It is much to the credit of the Reformers that they have signed a petition emanating from such a source; but party feeling has no weight with them, and they prudently consent to be led by the ignorant and presumptuous, so long as they are taken in the right road. Let the people once recover their freedom, and the arrogant old Whigs will follow the worthless Tories. The Whigs of this town forget how weak they are without the Reformers; but it is to be hoped the latter will display their power the first opportunity.

I am, Sir, your's, A REFORMER.

MEM:—*And that opportunity they shall shortly be afforded at a meeting for the establishment of a Hull Political Union for the maintenance of the rights of the people against usurpation, oppression, and persecution, by National or Local Aristocrats.*

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

DEAR SIR,—"A Shipowner" asks if it would not have been more creditable to have given 5s. to every burghess who would accept it, on the occasion of the Coronation, than to have wasted the money on special constables? He adds, surely on such an occasion the poor burghesses ought to have had some benefit from the Corporate funds, as well as the Mayor and Aldermen. What does "The Shipowner" then fancy that the special constables are to be paid out of the Corporate funds? No! no! Had that been the law of the case, I firmly believe we should not have heard of such a thing as a special constable on the occasion. No! no! "The Shipowner" may, by consulting the statute of 1st Geo. IV. chap. 37, sec. 3, learn that he will have his share to pay. In short, that they will be paid, or are already paid, out of the county rate. Your's, &c. T.

HULL, September 17th, 1831.

MEM:—*This scheme of the Corporators reflects much credit on their animal sagacity. They, with the public money, bought off the disaffected of the working class, and made the illuminated householders pay for the protection of the unillumin'd Corporators and their hangers on—those creeping things who would rather crawl on the floor of the Corporate dining-room, than stand erect in the nobility of independent manhood.*

ED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—The liberal part of the inhabitants of Beverley are indiscribably delighted at beholding the wonderful reformation you have already so manfully and laudably effected in the town of Hull; and they sincerely hope that your noble efforts will not be altogether confined to Hull alone, especially as they are in the habit of claiming relationship one with the other.

The rulers of the ancient borough of Beverley not being all perfection (for such is not the lot of man) in what they have for

years past been performing, stand therefore, in great need of your *mild* correction; and should the milk of human kindness cause you to feel inclined to assist us in giving "Russell's Purge," or in drawing away the murky veil of abomination from before the cloven foot of corruption, you shall have true and faithful cases sent you from time to time.

This day has been the Mayor choosing here, and also the election of thirteen "discreet" Common-councilmen to assist in the grave deliberations and sage acts of the Corporate body, albeit to stand by, and be used as the fabled monkey did the cat's paw when roasting chesnuts.

Hoping we shall have a large shower of your charity in full perfection. I am, your's, &c. PROBE.

BEVERLEY, September 26th, 1831.

MEM:—*Mr. Ramsden is my agent at Beverley for the sale of the Portfolio. I regret to add, that, at present, I am fully occupied with the consideration and exposure of Hull iniquities.* J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—I shall feel exceedingly obliged, if you will answer the following question, in your next Portfolio; viz:—Can a person who manufactures his own goods, hawk the same in any town or village, in the kingdom, without a licence?

ANSWER:—A Manufacturer, (or his servant, or agent, on his behalf) may hawk the goods of his own manufacture, in any city, borough, or town, but not village or hamlet. The following clause is from the Act Geo. III cap. 41. sec. 23:—

"Provided always, and it is hereby enacted, that nothing in this Act shall extend to prohibit any person or persons from selling any printed papers licensed by authority, or any fish, fruit, or victuals, nor to hinder the real worker or workers, or maker or makers, of any goods, wares, or Manufactures of Great Britain, or his, her, or their children, apprentices, or known agents or servants, usually residing with such real workers or makers, only, from carrying abroad or exposing to sale, and selling by retail or otherwise, any of the said goods, wares, or manufactures of his, her, or their own making, in any mart, market, or fair, and in every city, borough, town corporate, and market town; nor any tinkers, coopers, glaziers, plumbers, harness menders, or other persons usually trading in mending kettles, tubs, household goods, or harness whatsoever, from going about and carrying with him or them proper materials for mending the same."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—On perusing your last number of "The Portfolio," I found a letter subscribed "A Shipowner," of which the following paragraph forms a part:—"As the Trinity-House could afford to have two splendid dinners' last week, might they not have contrived to have had one of them on Thursday? They would have done so if William IV. had been a despot and encourager of corruption." Now, Sir, as your correspondent appears to have been misinformed on this subject, I beg through the medium of your columns, to inform him, that if he will take the trouble of making en-

quiry, he will find, as I have been credibly informed, that the Corporation of the Trinity-House *did contrive to have one of their splendid dinners on Thursday* the 8th instant, solely to commemorate the Coronation of their most gracious Majesties.

I am, Sir, your's, &c.

AN OBSERVER.

HULL, September 19th, 1831.

MEM:—*That they guttled and guzzled is very credible; but did they illuminate? No; they preferred drunkenness to sobriety, and darkness to illumination—"because their deeds are evil."* J. A.

TO CERTAIN REVEREND GENTLEMEN.

SIRS,—I am informed that you devoted a considerable portion of your sermons, last Sunday, to vilifying the Portfolio, and Public Opinion. You might have been better employed. As scholars, you cannot be unacquainted with the duties of a christian minister, and let me tell you, that I also know something of such matters, and I further know, that when Clergymen of the Church of England, or others, lend themselves to support the cause of any corrupt body of men, however opulent, they disgrace themselves, and meddle with that which is alien to their office. Some of your hearers were sick with listening to the uncalled for and unbecoming remarks which you were pleased to foist upon them. Is there any thing contrary to the spirit of Christianity in standing up for the poor and the oppressed? Was not Christ himself a reformer? And yet you, Sirs, professing yourselves to be teachers of his doctrine, undertake, voluntarily undertake, to vindicate certain flagrant abuses, by finding fault with those who would correct them. I feel justified in charging you with this, because you have stepped from the path marked out for you to tread in, and have mingled in party politics, or rather, you have censured the poor for complaining that they are oppressed and tyrannized over by the rich. Think you that the pulpit was originally intended for the accommodation of men who are pleased to defend the corrupt acts of corrupt Corporations? You neither can, nor do, think any such thing, but you think of currying favor with those in power:—the besetting sin of most parsons. If you could be prevailed upon to preach no more than is set down for you, your conduct would better harmonize with your profession; but, if you will become the advocates of that which is notoriously bad, expect to hear further from me in the Portfolio; for I, too, can lecture, albeit out of the pulpit.

THE EDITOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,

There is a branch of the Corporate tree to which I should rejoice in beholding the pruning knife applied—*ergo*, I solicit your attention to the following queries:—

Who succeeded the late Town's Husband?

By *whom* was he appointed?

At what *yearly salary*?

Does the person who succeeded the late Town's Husband enjoy any other sinecures?

Does the *self*-same individual receive £100 per annum from the Waterworks?

Is this, a proper distribution of the money of the burgesses, of whose rights and property the Corporation are *nominally* guardians?

Are there any precedents in support of this monopoly of places and pensions enjoyed by the aforesaid individual?

What says the *Charter*?

Does the person, who has the laborious duty of collecting the water-rent from thousands of families, receive as much for collecting as the *aforesaid individual* for auditing the accounts?

Is this an equitable disposition of public money?

To whose use are the broken fragments that remain over and above to them that have eaten, applied? To the poor? *Credat Judæus!* J. T. B.

—oo—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—I was standing on the Pier the other day, observing your exertions in the public cause, when the thought struck me, as the Royal Charter passed, what could be the reason of the Proprietors calling her by that name.

It is very natural to suppose that to a Vessel like her, intended for a specific purpose, an appropriate name would have been given. Now, according to their own statement, she is not the regular Ferry Boat, and of course I should have thought ANTI or OPPOSITION Packet, a name more descriptive of her character: but I ended my surmises on this point by supposing it must have been done at the instance of the Corporation, to blind and deceive the Public into the belief that they were acting under the full authority of their Charter by advancing the fares of Passengers going by her to and from Barton.

Now, Sir, there generally are two opinions on a subject, but it appears there have been four on the question of the right of the Corporation to advance the fares in the Ferry Boat, and three of them have been on one side; therefore, had right taken place, the majority ought to have carried it. FIRST, there was the learned Recorder Osbourne's opinion, which to every reasonable mind must have been conclusive, especially when supported by, SECONDLY, Judge Parke's opinion, which one would have thought would be quite convincing. But, Sir, there was a THIRD opinion to be acted upon, which, I have no doubt, was fixed upon prior to either

of the former being asked, and that was the Corporate opinion, viz. that they had a right to do as they pleased—and this opinion they adopted in opposition to the other two; thinking, if they asked a FOURTH opinion, it would belike the two former—against them: and this brings me, lastly to the very appropriate name of your Packet, the PUBLIC OPINION. This, although thought so little of by them, I should think they have not neglected to benefit by during the last week or two; and which, I hope will be a lesson to those gentlemen lately initiated into the civic mysteries, as well as to those who may be destined to come after them.

But fearing I have trespassed too far upon your time, I subscribe myself

Sir,

Yours respectfully,

Hull, September 22nd, 1831.

J. W.

—oo—

MEM:—*The Corporate humbug of the week shall not escape me; but I prefer the sober and serious consideration of remedial measures, to frothy and inoperative remonstrances. The evil of bribery is admitted by those even who accept the wages of infamy. "But," say they, "what can we do?" Instead, therefore, of telling the Burgesses that they ought not to drink rum when they can get it for nothing, I shall very shortly shew them what they can do, what they ought to do and what, if they be not both fools and knaves, they must do to protect themselves from robbery and ruin.* J. A.

—oo—

THE FREE FERRY FUND.

The public having determined on supporting me in my effort to destroy the Ferry monopoly between Hull and Barton, a subscription has been opened at both of those towns for raising the sum of £100. The amount subscribed at Barton will be acknowledged in Wednesday's Portfolio. That contributed in this town is subjoined:—

	£.	s.
Paid to Mr. A. at the Public Meeting	9	12
Subscribed at Mr. Watson's Coffee-House	20	11
Mr. Noble's	1	6
Mr. Jackson's	0	10
C. L. and a few friends	1	2
	£33	1

* * Those gentlemen who have not yet paid up the inscribed contributions, are requested to do so at the earliest convenience.

Subscriptions continue to be received at Mr. Watson's Coffee-House, by Mr. Noble, in the Market-Place, and Mr. Jackson, in Bowlalley-Lane.

Printed and Published by JAMES ACLAND, sole Proprietor and Editor, No. 3, Mytongate, Hull.

THE

Hull Portfolio;

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES ACLAND.

"Bonis nocet quisquis pepercerit malis."—CICERO
HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS BY JAMES ACLAND,
SOLE PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR, NO. 3, MYTONGATE, HULL.

Vol. 1.—No. 8.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1831.

Twopence.

TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR,
THE WORSHIPFUL THE ALDERMEN, AND
THE HONEST AND INDEPENDENT BUR-
GESSES OF THE TOWN AND COUNTY OF
THE TOWN OF KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.

GENTLEMEN.—You are aware, or you ought, by this
me, to be aware of the objects I have in view in taking up
a residence in your town, in assuming a commanding
position in that circle of influence which surrounds a popula-
tion of from fifty to sixty thousand individuals, and in direc-
ting such moral power to the benefit of those who have been
so many years trampled upon as noxious reptiles, or as
things which feel not, and which are incapable of resistance.
I have often met with children (and men are but chil-
ren of a larger growth) who having been taught syntax
unfested an absolute ignorance of orthography—and I,
therefore assume, that there may possibly be many among you
who have read the Portfolio with avidity, and scanned my
with eagerness and earnestness, and who yet know no
more of my motives and objects than the man in the moon—
than George Lee, the Whig Editor of the Hull Register.
I therefore take leave to state, that my first object is
to convince you that you are, and have long been enslaved,
wronged, and robbed; my second to shew you who it is that
is so enslaved, wronged and robbed you—to wit, the Corpo-
rate Aristocrats of this Town and County; my third, to
manstrate to those who are enslaved, wronged, and robbed,
that they need be so no longer; and my fourth, to teach your
Corporate Aristocrats, that they can no longer oppress you
with impunity—that the sun of rational liberty
is shone forth in its native splendour—that the resistless
spirit of reform pervades the world, even purifying the atmos-

phere of Kingston-upon-Hull—and that, henceforth, that har-
binger of happiness, a Free Press, will shed her benignant
beams upon the persecuted burgesses, despite the frowns of
Corporate dignitaries, in defiance of the threats of Corporate
Creatures, and in contempt of the fulminations of all political
Parsons—lickspittle Editors, and exasperated Monopolists!

Such are my objects; but, it may be asked, by what means
do I propose their attainment. I have, it is true, but one
instrument wherewith to level the high walls of Aristocratic
usurpation—but it is sufficient—it is "THE PRESS." The
missiles which I thence propel against the powers of darkness
derive their weight, their velocity, and their efficacy from the
powder of "PUBLIC OPINION." If then, the engineer be
master of his profession, simple means, even by reason of
their simplicity, will be ample and effective to the end propo-
sed on their adoption.

You have seen that I am indifferent to the interests of
private emolument, and utterly reckless of individual disap-
probation or opposition. I am a public man. I have all my
life (since I could think, write, and act) been a public man.
When yet in my teens, I dared to dedicate a work, web-
dominatory of the suspension of the "Habeas Corpus Act" to
the Prince Regent—and was, of course, prosecuted for
something less than treason. But Home and Wooler killed
Lord Ellenborough—and I was spared, per necessitate rei;
—because British Juries would not be bullied into slavish
subservency.

My public career thus commenced, I have ever since pur-
sued the hitherto thorny path of reform, undeviatingly, con-
sistently, actively and firmly. My connection with the
Metropolitan and Provincial Press, has made me the tactili-
lar I am, and taught me that Public Opinion is absolutely resist-

less. It is the political altar before which I bow with the humility of a devotee. It is the political deity whom I worship and before whose shrine the advocate of popular rights, and the avowed enemy of a nation's oppressors should dedicate himself as the ancient Roman dedicated his son—to his Country's service—for that Country's good.

Actuated by these sentiments, I have unfurled the banner of independence in the face of the Corporate despots of Kingston-upon-Hull—and when I strike my colors, may the indignation of its people strike me to the earth, or their contempt wither me into nothingness! The course I have adopted is a bold one, but the energy with which I have opened the campaign, and the determination with which I shall carry on the war into the very heart of the enemy's territories, will enable me to look forward with a sanguine and reasonable hope to that hour of victory and glory—when the many shall no longer be the vassals of the few, and when the besotted tyrants of past years shall have been driven from their strong hold of usurpation, into the desert of desision—where neither shall green spot gladden the eye, nor rippling stream cool the parched tongue, or exhilarate the sinking heart.

BURGSESSES OF HULL—Of the many occasions on which I shall demand your support in order to your disenfranchisement from Corporate vassalage, I think it necessary to apprise you of one, thus early, because I hold it imprudent to be last in the field where a battle has to be fought, and where delay may look like cowardice. At your next election, come when it may, I shall most assuredly offer myself a candidate for your unbought suffrages. And I can promise the Corporators, that, to bring in their man—be he disguised as either Whig or Tory, it shall cost them more thousands than would make them all drunk a thousand times over.

You are yet to be shewn how great wonders can be effected by "Public Opinion"—and if it so please you, I will take upon me the office of your instructor. You shall see that under its banners, the weak can vanquish the mighty—that power, when opposed to it is powerless, and that the individual who carries no other weapon than such talisman, is more than a match for all the corruptionists who may be leagued against him—for his destruction, and for your subjugation.

In my next, I will resume my address to you on this important subject. Meanwhile, I subscribe myself,

Your faithful servant,

JAMES ACLAND.

TO A CERTAIN ALDERMAN, Who, for this week, shall be nameless.

SIR.—You have acted with partiality in the exercise of your judicial powers, in refusing to order your coachman, to deliver up an Indenture of apprenticeship to the tradesman with whom his son is an apprentice, on an application to the Magistrates for that purpose; although you knew that it was lent to his father under the FALSE PRETENCE that he was obliged to produce it to the Committee of the Hull Infirmary to enable him to get his son admitted an in-patient. At the hearing before the Magistrates you acted as Counsel for your coachman and his son, and because the Indenture had been previously delivered to you for perusal you decided that you ought to return it to him, which you accordingly did in open Court, and the application was dismissed. In consequence of this decision the apprentice neglects his duty and wants to induce his master to release him upon the Indenture, knowing that he has no remedy without you order it to be delivered to him, which I warn you to do before the next Portfolio is published.

TO ALDERMAN CHRISTOPHER BOLTON.

SIR,—They say you are a good judge of fighting cocks and fighting dogs—that you have no objection to a bull-bait, and that you know something of every thing—except law. To be sure, any Tom Noddle, as times go, may make a magistrate—and why may not a cock-fighter? I am sure I can have nothing to say to the contrary, and indeed I have reason to believe you a better judge, than any Alderman who ever expected people to pull off their hats as his worship passed them. They tell me you gave three pence for my last Portfolio, rather than wait your turn; in fact, that you bought precedence with a penny, and read two pennyworth of truth three minutes and a half sooner, than either George Lee, or George Codd. You may therefore imagine that I duly appreciate the soundness of your judgment—inasmuch as you have proved the Portfolio to be at a premium—or your discretion at a discount.

You know how sincerely I subscribe myself,

Alderman of Hull,

Your obsequious servant,

JAMES ACLAND.

THE HULL NEWSPAPERS.

Owing to the kindness of a most respectable correspondent at Barton, I was last week enabled to shew the way in which it pleases the managers of the new paper-press in Hull to mystify and humbug the public.

Any person unacquainted with the circumstances of the case, would naturally think the attack said to have been committed on our Mayor, a desperate business, and that the life of the said Mayor had been, to say the least of it, in imminent danger. The letter to which I have alluded, will prove that the whole was a matter of mere moonshine, which might have happened to any person, and at any time since the world was created. Instead of being regularly pelted with stones and other missiles, it will be perceived that his worship was not so much as aimed at, for he was snugly seated in the cabin of the Royal Cheater when the pelting took place. Why, then, should a servile and time-serving press endeavour to blacken the character of the individual engaged in opening the ferry, and attribute to him (by implication) the faults of certain drunken blackguards? Yet the newspapers have done this, and according to them, the whole blame of any thing that was improper, must rest on the head of him who conveyed the passengers across the Humber at a much cheaper rate than that to which they had been previously accustomed. They lament, in the most pathetic strains, the abuse of Sunday, which according to them, ought to be spent in a very different way from that afforded by a cheap conveyance to Barton. So it ought, (but is it spent better?) by those who have the means and the opportunity to get into the country any day in the week; but they who cross the waters of the Humber on the Sabbath, are people who have no other opportunity. There is something canting and jesuitical, therefore, in charging them with committing a great sin when they avail themselves of the only leisure hours they possess, to venture beyond the precincts of the town, and breathe a little untainted air. But had the fares of the Royal Charter (where is this Charter?) been equally as low as those of the Public Opinion;—had as many passengers crowded her decks, and afterwards become somewhat unruly, would the Editors of the Hull papers have denounced them and their conduct so roughly? By no means; and yet Barton can testify that there have been some bits of rows before an opposition packet was heard of. But this is granting too much; for it is uncertain that any single person engaged in the “disgraceful proceedings” recorded in the Hull papers, was, or had ever been a passenger in the Public Opinion. The affair seems to be in a great measure, a work of the imagination, got up to answer selfish purposes: and if the Mayor was questioned on the subject by those who might have access to him, he would unhesitatingly declare this to be his conviction. He well knows no personal insult was intended: or if it was, the parties committing it, might, ere now, have been brought to condign punishment. Several Hull constables were in attendance: they saw the whole from beginning to end, and yet they never interfered. Perhaps they were outnumbered by the rioters? Suppose they were, what prevented them from marking the ringleaders,

and bringing them subsequently to justice? If the rioters belong to this town—which is not quite so large as London—surely some of the police could have identified them. If they did not belong to this town, what was the Mayor to them, or how were they to know him? It is really astonishing that so poor and clumsily contrived a thing should appear in the columns of a newspaper, however hostile may be the proprietor of that newspaper to the party accused,—and however favourably disposed towards the party gratuitously taken under editorial protection! What, then caused, the papers to catch at this straw? Because, they wished to evince their affection for the powers that be. Because, they wished to partake of the loaves and fishes. They are wise in their generation, for just now, the greater part of these loaves and fishes is engrossed by our overgrown Corporation. R.D.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

“Speak of me as I am, nothing extenuate,
“Nor set down aught in malice.”

SHAKESPEARE.

SIR,—From the sterile tract, the milk and water politics,—the miserable tergiversations, clumsily sought to be concealed, by the newspapers in this place,—I turn with feelings of indifference, and hail with almost lover's eagerness the weekly publication of your Portfolio; assured of finding in its columns something congenial to my own spirit—not of slander for I am no scandal-monger—not of illiberal personalities, for to those I object—but of well merited exposure of abuses, and fair and honest strictures on the public conduct of public men and measures. I take it that all men who step forth from the usual routine of their grade, and by their declarations and actions announce to the world their particular political tenets—(forming as it were a “point d'appui” to others of the same opinions) take upon themselves the character of public men, and agree to submit their conduct and acts in such political affairs, to the censure or praise of their fellow beings.—In Hull you are aware we have a class of leading men called Whigs—professing liberal opinions,—advocates of the liberties of the subject and the press—purgers of impurity—renovators of the constitution.

Whose war cry is “The Cock that pays”?

Whose watch word is—“Reform.”

Is it not singular then, Mr. Editor, that in this Town,—the fourth Sea-port in Britain,—possessing as it does so many avowed Whigs,—supporters of the present administration,—with a sufficient number too of bell-wethers to the flock, that the petition to the Lords in favor of Reform (unlike the plan adopted at other places) has been allowed to be concocted in the Office of the Secretary to the Guardian Society, and palmed upon the Public without any opportunity for public discussion, or open manifestation of popular feeling on such an important subject.—This hole and corner business is more like the machinations of a secret police than the avowed principles of honorable men.—Why was not a requisition sent to the Mayor to

appoint a meeting?—Perhaps I may be told that it would have been useless. The Mayor would have refused;—be it so; the halo which surrounds that venerable body (the Corporation) would not have shone more dimly from such refusal. No! that's not possible! The Mayor's refusal to such an act of courtesy would have been of little moment save to give another proof of corporate loyalty. The gagging act no longer now exists; a meeting could have been held without such consent;—why then was it not held? Was it because the cause was bad, and would not bear discussion? Was it because the leading Whigs have a sneaking likeness for the Corporation, and wished to spare them the dilemma such requisition would place them in? or was it that their individuality pulls more strongly than their body-politic? was it one or all those causes; or none; but simply their caprice?—the caprice of that political weathercock, the secretary already mentioned. A word or two on this same Secretary's politics—this man immaculate, and free from stain, whose principles forbade the contact with you on the coronation day! Eventful is the history but brief.

Leagued with another (twin brother to himself) he, on the occasion of the election before the last, unsolicited, unsought, embarked for Barton, introduced himself to Burke (one of the candidates) offered his services and influence, and was retained by Mr. Burke as his legal agent, and I am told assisted in drawing up some of his addresses. From some information, which afterwards proved incorrect, he supposed Mr. Burke had not more of the "sinews of war" than two or three hundred pounds—a drop in the Ocean! Considerately (for himself, mind you) he returned his retainer and prayed to be excused. Mr. Burke, offered himself on liberal principles.

The next act of this learned gentleman was (ere the ink was dry announcing to Mr. Burke his desertion) this political emulsion, this sordid whigling was on his way to York, as envoy to Col. Wilson the late member for York, whose political principles are too well known to need remark, to induce him to come to Hull, to oppose his first employer!! In this he failed. But where were the Whigs? I think I hear you ask. Whigs! What were the Whigs to him! Swiss like "who holds the jink—holds me." Oh, consistency! oh, moral principle! oh, shame, where is thy blush? We find him sheltering under whiggish banners—we find him envoy in the whiggish cause, first as employed in communicating with the Whig Candidate and afterwards as an acknowledged agent.

Mr. Burke, in a speech from the Cross Keys, threatened to gibbet the secretary's reputation on the Hastings, but did not put his threat into execution—perhaps he found it would not even hang in chains. However that may be, he dared not to vote though strongly urged. His name is not in the poll-book—neither is that of his turncoat colleague.

"CONSCIENCE MAKES COWARDS OF US ALL."
September 29. 1831.

MEM.—The Reformers—that is, the Public, have no more dependance on the Whigs than on the Tories, looking on both parties as mere traders in politics, anxious only to carry their wares to the best market, and to sell them to the greatest advantage. The people, as a body, are gifted with a much larger proportion of common sense than their oppressors, the heartless

aristocrats of this abused nation. If there be any who require a more particular definition of the term aristocracy, I would say that such body is composed of all the Whigs and all the Tories: in short, of those swarms of state caterpillars by whom the herbage of our country has been destroyed and who now fatten on the roots and fibres of this devastated land. Let any honest man look at the list of sinecurists and pensioners, and say whether they are not wholly composed of the Whig and Tory hangers on of a corrupt system of government administration. Why then should we be surprised when a Whig Editor countenances local robbery or a Whig lawyer sells himself and his politics to the highest bidder? On the other hand, it is not surprising that they should sedulously avoid the convocation of the people for the public discussion of political grievances, at the present time. For the same reason that they objected to my company at a Public Dinner, they would avoid my presence at a Public Meeting. They know me for a Reformer—in act as in word—and Reform is a thing they don't like. It would deprive them of the power of fattening themselves and their creatures and dependants on the poverty of the working classes. It would destroy alike Whig and Tory loonies—and therefore the Whigs like Reform in about the same degree as the Corporators of our Town—and no more! "Oh!" but say the Whigs, "this is very pretty language to address to us, who are giving the REFORM BILL to the Country." Aye! but this Reform Bill is a lock without a key until the nation shall have also obtained the VOTE BY BALLOT—and that the Whigs will not give us, if they can quarter themselves on the loaves and fishes without doing so. They are no more likely to volunteer the concession of this right of the electors—this only efficient guarantee of the freedom of voting for Representatives in Parliament, than are our guttling and guzzling Corporators to volunteer an equitable appropriation of the funds held by them in trust for the Burgeses. And, alas! that is about as improbable as that a confirmed drunkard should ever become a sober, industrious, and creditable member of society.

But "Public Opinion," may enforce public justice. That retributive power is now passing over the United Kingdom as an irresistible blast which none can hope to resist and before which all who would escape destruction must bow either in the submissiveness of humility, or in the prudence of despair.

Of course the Whig Editor and his "dear friend," the Whig Lawyer will read this prophecy. May they, as they really do, repent them of their former sins, and resolve to lead a new life; and, like good boys, promise never to do so any more, lest they provoke to anger one who has hitherto cautioned them in sorrow, and advised them in friendliness and in pity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR.—I sincerely wish the spirited attempt which you are making to do away the Ferry Monopoly, may succeed, but if you trust to the public for pecuniary support, rely upon it, you will assuredly be disappointed. All, save the parties interested, think your cause a good one, and those who understand such things declare the law is in your favor. Yet funds necessary to contest the point with the Corporation, will not be furnished, even by those who praise you most warmly and, thus you will have to depend solely on your own resources. The odds against you are fearful. Consider for a moment that your opponents possess an annual income of Ten Thousand Pounds, for the disposal of which they think themselves not accountable to an earthly tribunal; and a portion, or perhaps the whole

of this enormous revenue, they will expend in feeling lawyers, sooner than be deprived of their assumed privileges. One thing, however, is singularly in your favor: for the *Magna Charta*, which enabled them to charge either a shilling, or a sovereign, according to the caprice of the moment, has disappeared, and is no where to be discovered. There are people amongst us who suspect that it never existed, but of course they are mistaken.

On reconsidering what I have written, I see some reason to believe that you have nothing to fear on the score of prosecution; at the same time, I conceive you ought to be indemnified by the public, for whom you labour, against all risk. This indemnity they will assuredly refuse, and if you conquer the many-headed monster at all, it will be as I before intimated, by your own strength and courage.

I do not want to dishearten you, but your experience of the world will, I am sure, tell you that he who devotes his life and talents to the service of mankind, is always indifferently rewarded.

Whatever be the result of the present attempt, you have done what ought to have been done by others, and are well entitled to the gratitude of the inhabitants of Hull and Barton. I tender you mine.

Hull, Sept. 23, 1831.

AMICUS.

MEM. --- My correspondent is evidently a man of the world, and so am I; hence there cannot be any great diversity in our opinions on the value of public liberality or public gratitude. But I labor in the cause of my choice, and in such a cause defeat itself were not inglorious, so that no available means shall have been neglected by the advocate of public rights. I have learnt that it is not in the power of mortals to command success: but I will, at least, endeavour to deserve it; and if my means should not be sufficient---and if the public should not think me deserving of their support---there will then be no disgrace to me in the failure I might not have averted.

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,---The interesting communication in your last Number regarding the Barton Ferry, has caused a general search among old papers, and I now send you a copy of an agreement which does not seem to have been laid before the modern grand Jury of Barton. It speaks so forcibly for itself, that I need only add that it was found amongst some papers of the late W. Martin the elder, who was a professional man, in practice at the period of its date, and probably had the direction of its intention. Sir John Nelthorpe, Mr. Gildas, and Mr. Nelson, were the then great proprietors of property in Barton, and the heads of society in the place; who it appears did not feel it beneath them to assist their neighbours in trade to correct what was then considered a serious imposition. The subscrip-

tions are in the hand-writing of the several parties; and it altogether sets an example worthy of imitation. Along with the agreement is a schedule of fees alluded to, and with some memorandums which I have subjoined, and it appears to exhibit the scale of difference between the tolls charged to the Barton people and the public at large.

I am yours,

INQUISITOR.

BARTON, 30th Sept., 1831.

Whereas, the inhabitants of Barton-upon-Humber, in the county of Lincoln, have been lately compelled by John Western, owner of the Barton ferry-boats, to pay double for the freight and portorage of their goods, to and from Hull, that has been usually taken by the said John Western and others, the owners of the said Ferry-boats, and their servants, to the great prejudice of the traders in, and consumers of such goods. Now we whose names are hereunto subscribed, being advised that the freight and portorage now taken by the said John Western and his servants are illegal and contrary to ancient custom, have agreed to try by an action or actions at common law, the pretended right of the said John Western and his servants taking double freight and portorage of goods to and from Hull, in his Ferry-boats; and have also further agreed to subscribe and pay towards the costs and charges, the money set against our respective names. Witness our hands this nineteenth day of April, one Thousand seven Hundred and Seventy-three.

LAND OWNERS.		£.	s.	d.
By order of Sir John Nelthorpe	-	5	5	0
William Gildas	-	5	5	0
Chris. Nelson	-	5	5	0
John Saunderson	-	3	3	0
Thomas Andrew	-	1	1	0
TENANTS.				
Richd. Barrett	-	0	10	0
Saml. Thompson	-	0	2	6

Copy of Paper along with the Agreement.

	d.	d.
A crate of pots	-	3 and 1½
Coarse pots	-	1 ½
A large pack of goods	-	6 3
A pack, not exceeding 3 cwt.	-	4 2
A trush, not exceeding 2 cwt.	-	2 1
A box of goods, not exceeding 1 cwt.	-	1 ½
Cheese of all sorts, per 1 cwt.	-	1 ½
Rags, by the cwt.	-	1 ½
Half chest of Florence Oil	-	1 ½
Fish, by the hamper	-	1 ½
Corn, Grain and Malt, per quarter	-	2 0
Deals and Polls, per score	-	4 2
Thin Laths, per 20 bunches	-	2 1
Rock Laths, per score bunch	-	4 2
All odd bunches	-	½ 0
Battins, per 100	-	10 6
Beef, per quarter	-	2 1

Mr. Tripp proposes to make a Dock and Breast-work at his own expence; and the inhabitants of

Barton, to make a caneway from the warehouse to the landing place.

All small goods to be put into the warehouse.—Subscribers to go either in the horse or pleasure-boat at three-pence, and pay nothing to come back in the course of the tide.

TO THE
CHURCHWARDENS OF THE HOLY TRINITY, HULL.

SIRS,—You have been elected to the situation of Churchwardens, which appointment you have accepted.

One of you for a series of years has held that situation at the nomination of the Vicar. I have a right therefore to presume you, (or at least one of you,) are tolerably well acquainted with your duties.

Will you then allow me to ask by what singular inconsistency the best pews and seats in the parish Church of the Holy Trinity, have been for a long time, and still continue to be enjoyed by a *certain class* of persons who do not reside in the parish—to the exclusion of the resident parishioners.

I have always understood the pews in a parish Church, are by the general law of the land, the common property of the parish, for the use of the parishioners generally, subject only to faculties granted by the ordinary, or a prescriptive right which presumes a faculty to have been granted, but lost. How does it happen then, that this unjust and illegal monopoly has been allowed so long to exist? I am not aware of any faculty ever having been granted to, or prescriptive right claimed, by any of the parties in question. If however that be the case, I aver that such right is determined with the claimants; ceasing to be a resident in the parish where such right is claimed. Having now shewn you that these seats and high places are improperly occupied, permit me a word or two, on your duty as churchwardens in this particular:—

Churchwardens according to Wood's History, page 93, are temporal officers, having authority on behalf of the parishioners in ecclesiastical matters, and it is their duty to place the *parishioners* in the seats according to *their rank and degree*. They have also the care of the Church and of the seats therein, not only to repair them, but also to see that good order be preserved in them, and that no contention be made about them in the house of God; but that every man regularly take that seat to which he hath a right, whether it be by prescription, or he hath been placed there by the Bishop, or themselves. (see Prideaux 69.) It is your duty, it appears, to seat the most respectable parishioners in the best seats. Why then do you allow such seats to be occupied by persons not resident in the parish? Why are the respectable tradesmen of the Market-place, who are compelled to pay so heavily towards the repair of the edifice, placed in the narrow back seats, the worst in the Church, which I observe some of them occupy, while their legal seats are monopolised by a class of illegal occupants? Who can wonder at the increase of dissenters and increasing dislike to "Mother Church," when such is the conduct of her wardens?

It is your duty, as a parishioner dying or leaving the parish, to allot the pews so becoming vacant, to such parishioners as have the best claim to them, in point of standing in the parish, and general respectability. Do you act thus? If so, why do we see the illegal and unjust practice alluded to so long continued.

Spare me further trouble Gentlemen, and remedy these irregularities and let me beg of you to remember that we have now a door open for the exposure of abuses, and depend on it, its hinges shall not rust for want of opening, so long as such abuses continue unredressed, and I can form the name of

DELTA.

28th September, 1831.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

Hull, September 29, 1831.

SIR,—As you have through the medium of your valuable publication defended the rights of the inhabitants of Hull against the tyrannical oppressor, I beg leave to submit the following case to your notice:—

Mr. Cornelius Kay bought a piece of ground on the Humber bank, on which he built his present premises and also a jetty, at considerable expense, for the purpose of lading vessels with manure, &c. Soon after, the late Mrs. Terry, (mother of the present Alderman of that name,) removed to the Bank; when she found her delicate nose annoyed by the passing of the carts. I beg to observe, by the bye, her husband had formerly filled the rank of a country school-master, the school being very near his own dunghill, and where he might have remained, had he not enjoyed the talents of time-serving, psalm singing, canting, &c. which introduced him to great notice and favour. Mrs. T. declared the jetty was a nuisance, and therefore preferred an indictment against it as such. Mr. Kay's judges being his accusers he was, of course, found guilty, and sentenced to pay a fine of one hundred pounds, if he continued to suffer manure to be carried to the jetty any longer. This was in or about the year 1820. Now, sir, if this was a nuisance, how is it that other persons have built houses, where ten times the number of carts pass hourly to the wharf of Messrs. English and Jackson, through a populous neighbourhood, where Mr. Westerdale and Mr. Rust are owners of property. But it seems the extraordinary delicacy of the conscientious Mrs. T.'s nose was the only one that could feel this nuisance. In the year 1827, Mr. Kay let the jetty to his son, for a yearly rent, who took care that the manure should not lie longer than the time it took in shipping. The consequence, (notwithstanding his caution) was, that it was again indicted, and though the son appeared in Court, and declared his father had no concern in it, yet a fine of twenty-five pounds was laid on the father, for the transaction of the son.

Now, Sir, if you are at all acquainted with the town of Hull, you will see from the situation of the jetty,

that nothing but pride and a love of power, setting aside the methodistical Terrys, could induce any man to oblige another to make such a sacrifice, as on a moderate computation it has been £1500 out of Mr. Kay's pocket.—Do you not think, Sir, that an action might be brought against all the parties concerned for a conspiracy?—You will observe, Sir, this jetty is the farthest out of Hull; further they could not go unless they went to Hessele to load. But I understand Mr. Kay had on a former occasion offended the Mayor and sitting Aldermen, by refusing to let his servant, as a witness, dance attendance on them when they thought proper, for which they took away a license from a Public House of his in Waterhouse Lane.—Ought such acts to be passed over with impunity? But these Terrys still pass for charitable people, nay even for saints! It is true there was a kind of Chapel at the Pottery, which is converted into a School, and which is called Miss Terry's Infant School. No doubt her father made her a good calculator, and that she knows how much one hundred and fifty pence comes to, for she has that number of children at a penny each per week, and gets poor people's children to teach them gratis. How charitable this in an Alderman's daughter! But I must conclude Sir, with hoping you will find room for this in your next.

I am, Sir,

A constant reader of your Portfolio.

MEM:—This statement of facts is, of course, ex parte, and may possibly elicit a counter statement, which, of course, I shall very readily publish; and on which two statements I may form an accurate opinion. If the charge receive no answer, I may deem it unanswerable; but every man and every woman is entitled to fair play, and shall have it at any hands, to the best of my judgment.

J. A.

"This is to certify, that the bearer ~~hereof~~, William Lapsley, did, on the morning of the twenty-sixth day of September instant, at the imminent risk of his own life, plunge into the river at the Penitentiary wharf, in Church-street, in the parish of Senlcoates, and extricate or save from drowning Sarah Spink, a girl of about eight years of age, which must have inevitably been the case, but for his most praiseworthy conduct. Witness our hands,

STEPHEN HURST.

ROBERT STEPHENSON.

HENRY PULAN.

JOHN SIMON HOLLAND.

GEORGE JOHNSON.

Miss M'KEE."

Mem.—The above Certificate has been forwarded me by the individual who did his duty on the occasion in question. He wants half a guinea for saving the life of a fellow-creature, and it seems that by the regulations of the late Humane Society, in this town, he would be entitled to such reward, if there were funds, which there are not, and which there are not likely to be, until an alderman, or his wife, or his something else, shall have been drowned, whilst selfish searers looked on and longed for their half guineas.

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

Cavendum est ne major poena, quam culpa, sit, et ne iisdem de causis alii plectantur, alii ne appellentur quidem. CICERO.

"Care should be taken in all cases, that the punishment do not exceed the guilt; and also that some men may not suffer for offences, which, when committed by others, are allowed to pass with impunity.

SIR,—I trust you will cordially join with me in advocating the rights of the poor, and exposing, through the means of your valuable publication, the domineering system so prevalent amongst the Aristocratic Corporators in "tording" it over the illiterate and indigent, and as it were from the following statement—acting as legislators, instead of administrators of the law.

Happening to be crossing the Market-place here on Friday last, my curiosity was excited by a group of people standing around the Saturday Market Cross, and wishing to know what was the matter, I crossed over, and observed a man (whose name I was informed was "Brigham,") set in the stocks, attended by a liveried lacquey of the Corporations, who, like his masters, appeared not to be wanting in apeing the superiority of his betters.

The offence for which the punishment was inflicted was visible to every beholder, through the extraordinary and illegal pains taken by the Magistrates, or some one by their authority or direction, having placed a written paper in the man's hat, stating that the punishment was "for being drunk on the sabbath day."

It appears, Mr. Editor, the person thus exposed to the gaze of the people, was one calculated for the Magistrates to practise their fool's play upon, by taking advantage of his poverty; whereas, had the poor fellow been of ability to have treated their worship with a good dinner, or the informers (I should suppose the Churchwardens) or even the Vicar himself, it is doubtful whether his offence would have been recorded.

Now, Mr. Editor, I am aware of the legality of committing the man to the stocks in default of paying the penalty, but who ever heard of or read any law authorising their Worship to exercise such fool's play over the rights of Englishmen, in acting the part of an "old fashioned schoolmaster," by adding the disgrace of the "fool's cap" to the punishment for drunkenness.

Since, Mr. Editor, it sometimes happens that "the wicked chastiseth the ungodly," and as there are other duties incumbent on the part of Churchwardens, in the dutiful discharge of their office, which appears to be wholly neglected, I wish to remind them, that they ought to act impartially—to watch with a vigilant eye over the dissolute lives of their pastors (and what can be more dissolute for Clergymen, pastors of a congregation, to resort to a gambling house, or frequent the billiard table?) and if they or the parish clerk are drunk on the sabbath day, during the hours of divine service, they ought (like the poor man) to be punished, and presented to the spiritual court; as also all Mayors, Aldermen, and Magistrates, who may be guilty of the like offence, or may perchance be the fathers of illegitimate children.

I am, Sir, your's, &c.

A BEVERLONIAN.

BEVERLEY, 27th Sept. 1831.

Mem.—There is a wide difference between a poor drunkard and a rich drunkard. The former purchases his liquors with his labor; the latter steals them from the funds of charity! This is my difference and the real difference between the man in the stocks and the alderman in the Mansion House. The aristocrats make another and a fallacious distinction—viz. that honest poverty is guilty where criminal wealth is commendable.

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO:

MR. EDITOR.—I have observed in your Portfolio you have attempted to expose irregularities that had taken place in the Post Office department at Hull, in the delivery of Letters. I wish to inform you that about two years ago, at the instigation of several respectable gentlemen, a petition was sent up to the Postmaster General, praying that a Penny Post might run between Hull, Skirlaugh & Hornsea, daily, on the arrival of the London Mail at Hull, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The Postman arrives about half-past seven in the evening, and returns through Skirlaugh to Hull the next morning, and arrives about nine o'clock. The complaint I have to make is the delivery of the letters. At Hornsea, they must lay until called for, let them be of ever so much consequence: and at Hull the letters arriving about nine o'clock in the morning, as I stated before, are not delivered in the Parish of Sculcoates until five o'clock in the evening at the soonest, being after the London Mail arrives and the Postman despatched for Hornsea again, so that you are completely kept in ignorance of any letter being addressed to you for eight or nine hours after its arrival, and puts it out of your power to answer by return of the Post. let the consequence be what it will: I think it is almost impossible that such a regulation could be authorized by the Postmaster General.

AN OBSERVER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

Near Beverley, Sep. 19, 1831.

SIR.—As your paper is devoted to the exposure of the insolence of power in "high places,"—of the assumption of incorporated right to oppress—I would ask a few plain questions, which probably you, or some of your readers may think proper, at a convenient season to comment upon.

In the first place I would ask—Have not the Corporation as Stewards for the Funds (which amount to some thousands annually) arising from Tolls, Rents, and Dues of sundry kinds—due, if I may so speak, to the town of Hull, (NOT to themselves, though peradventure it may be by themselves so understood, and so applied) have they not aright, a clear palpable right, out of such funds to pave, flag, cleanse, drain, and under-drain, or I may say, *at the least*, do something for the "guid Toon" without imposing extra rates upon either Landlord or Tenant, so long as they may have sufficient funds? Or, for what purpose were such originally intended? Have they a right furthermore, forsooth because they chance may damp their feet—or meet with something to offend the eye, "Heaven save the mark!" or that of some "knave in office"—have they a legal right to compel the Landlord, besides paying for the building of the Common Sewer, to build drains below the pavement, to carry off the rain—when the channels on the flags perfectly answered the purpose—thus burthening him with a bricklayer's bill, amounting to some pounds, say 5 or 6, in addition to the rate levied by them, approaching to

double this amount—and which is demanded the day the work is finished, and expected to be paid "instantly"—instead of, by an equal rate quarterly or half yearly? Or is this but the mandate of the surveyor "wrapt in his little brief authority" and robbing thus by license?—Yet even against such, it were useless to appeal,—"for why?"

"Because the good old rule sufficeth them—
The simple plan
That they may take who have the power—
And they may keep—who CAN"

If the Corporation have the power to levy those rates, pray what becomes of the surplus of their revenue? Is it laid out in beautifying the Town—or making the Port more convenient or advantageous—or in giving greater facilities to trade—or in furthering the interests of commerce—or in founding institutions for the instruction of the rising generation—or the endowment of charities? Or, on what are they laid out? Where are they laid out? Where are they? Echo replies "where are they!"

"MARTIN SCRIBLERUS."

MY NOTE-CASE.

The Mayor of Hull, no doubt, thought the party a beast who named his Prize Bull, the PORTFOLIO, but the Worshipful Chairman of the Hedon and Holderness Agriculturists need hardly be told that there are ruminating animals, although Mayors (mares) may be strangers to the faculty.

The Corporate Town Clerk has opened his first battery in defence of the rotten Market Tolls, by addressing the subjoined letter to one of the occupiers of standings in the Market-place.

"Guildhall, Hull, 27th Sept. 1831.

"In consequence of your having refused to pay the market-keeper the accustomed standage for your stand, in the Market-place, in this town, on Saturday last and this day, I am directed by the Mayor to inform you, that an action will be commenced against you, unless the same be paid on or before Tuesday next.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"GEORGE CODD, Town Clerk.

Now, my advice is, that those imposed upon should not unnecessarily provoke their easily to be provoked oppressors—inasmuch as immediately after Hull Fair, I shall myself try this question with the Corporators. I will not advise any one to pay an illegal demand, but Public Opinion makes me a strong man, and I would have those who possess less means of contesting the question, to "stand back," and form a second line, which may be rendered available as and when their services may be most required.

J. A.

On Sunday next, (which is not the Sabbath we are commanded by God to keep holy) I shall run a Steam Packet to Guinsborough and back; leaving Hull at Six in the Morning, and Guinsborough, on its return, at half-past One in the Afternoon.

Fare to Guinsborough and back, One Shilling. —
Hull, at mid-day, for Guinsborough, One Shilling.
Guinsborough and back, Eighteen Pence.
Of course, one of my Steamers will run to and from Barton as on Sunday last.

JAMES AGLAND.

Printed and Published by JAMES AGLAND, sole Proprietor and Editor, No. 3, Mytongate, Hull.

Hull Portfolio;

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES ACLAND.

"Bonis nocet quisquis pepererit malis."—CICERO.

HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS BY JAMES ACLAND,

SOLE PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR, NO. 3, MYTONGATE, HULL.

Vol. I.—No. 9. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1831.

Twopence.

Notice.

On Sunday next, (which is not the Sabbath we are commanded God to keep holy) I shall run a Steam Packet to Guinsborough and back; leaving Hull at Six in the Morning, and Guinsborough, its return, at half-past One, in the Afternoon.

Fares to Guinsborough..... One Shilling.
Hull..... One Shilling.
Guinsborough and back. Big fifteen Pence.
Of course, one of my Steamers will run to and from Barton as Sunday last.

JAMES ACLAND.

IS REPRINTED AND MAY BE HAD AT MY OFFICE. J. A.

TO GEORGE SCHONSWAR,

MAURITIUS MERCHANT AND POST OFFICE PENSIONER.

Letter I of the second Series.

Sir,—I am informed that in the exercise of your active benevolence you some time since procured a room in a certain charity Hall for a poor widow, (what a man you are for the widows!)—that this widow was possessed of £500---that you generously condescended, to borrow that amount of the widow, and justly expended it in your personal speculations about a reasonable prospect of ever being able to repay it your credulous creditor---and in fact, that you never have had her one farthing of the amount. If this be not true, I shall feel much pleasure in receiving of publishing your early contradiction of its inaccuracies.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE PEOPLE OF HULL.

FRIENDS,---Having obtained possession of the Charter on which your Corporators must base their claim to all the advantages of misgovernment---and knowing it to be of the most moment to them that you should be kept in ignorance its contents; and knowing also that your only chance of ridding the fangs of your oppressors hinges on your acquaintance with the conditions on which supremacy has been wisely granted to them---I have determined on its publication and in this number commence the undertaking. However and the style of the document, I desire to impress upon the necessity of your deliberately weighing every line and word of this Charter, for there is scarcely a duty which exacts from the Corporators that they have not neglected, I secured a right which it gives you that they have not.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE TRUSTEES OF HULL CHARITIES.

SIRS.—On Wednesday next I shall commence the publication of a detailed account of the many valuable charities of this town, together with particulars of their income, assets and expenditure.

To those of you who have faithfully discharged your duty, this announcement cannot give cause for alarm; whilst to others it must be terrifying indeed. You are entrusted with the heavy responsibility and religious obligation of administering to the necessities of the poor and afflicted; and if you defraud them you would rob a church of its sacramental plate or a child of its bread and butter. For those who apply the funds bequeathed by liberality and piety, to their personal use, a halter is too good—or, at least it should be made of the roughest material that may be spun.

Of your several deserts I shall hereafter be able to write more particularly.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

Sir,

I perceive the Dock Company have allowed a Building to be erected on the East Wharf of the Junction Dock, near the Myton-Gate Bridge; which is calculated to cause inconvenience to the Trade of this Port, and it is in direct violation of the Dock Acts, which prohibit the placing of any Building on, or within a certain distance of the old Town Wall. —I hope you will request the Dock Company to remove this elegant specimen of architecture, and as Government pay the Dock Company between three and four thousand pounds yearly under the Dock Acts, for the Ships in reciprocity with this Country, perhaps Ministers may be induced to imitate the Dock Company and cease to pay this large compensation.

I do not know much about Law, but I think Government have as much right to disregard the Dock Acts as the Dock Company have.

I did expect our public spirited Journals would have noticed this infraction on the Rights of the Port of Hull, but it appears they dare not. I am Sir,

A CONSTANT READER.

MEMO.—I will look into the Law on this point and return to the subject in a day or two.

TO THE INDEPENDENT BURGESSES OF KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.

GENTLEMEN.—Pursuant to my pledge, I resume the subject on which I addressed you last week—the proffer of my services to you on the first occasion of your being called upon to exercise your elective franchise.

The principles I profess centre in, and radiate from REFORM in its most comprehensive sense. I believe that whenever and wherever there is any abuse, Reform is imperatively necessary—and I act up to my belief, which constitutes the difference between me and the lip-professors by whom the country has been and is so grossly deceived. When the Tories rule the roast, the Whigs are word of mouth reformers; so also of the Tories when the Whigs are in office. The secrets of this history lies in a small compass. Both parties like the sweets of office, and each envies the other their enjoyment. It is upon a similar principle that all men (with very few exceptions) labour for the acquisition of wealth—that is, those who are not rich are ever endeavouring to obtain a portion of the riches of their more fortunate competitors in the sordid race.

But the country needs practical reformers; such reformers as will not flinch from applying the renovating besom to every dirty hole where corruption lurks, generating the nuisance of political usurpation and oppression, and desolating our country with that curse, the Corporate Morbus.

It has been truly said that Reform must begin at home; and, as it regards the representation of the people in parliament, this is most obviously necessary. So long as the electors will sell themselves—whether for money or drink, those who buy them will make the purchase as they would any other, on speculation, for gain, selling the commodity for as much as it will fetch.

When, in August last year, I stood the contest in Bristol, I taught my opponents how they ought to act on such occasions, if they were honest men and desirous only of advancing the interests of their country, and protecting the rights of the electors. I held it unconstitutional to solicit a vote, or to thank a voter for his support—for the elector, in voting for the best man, serves himself; and the elected, if he faithfully discharge his onerous duties, not receives but confers an obligation. If, however, he be a rogue—a political rogue, he thanks those who give him an opportunity of robbing them to his advantage.

As in the instance of my opening the ferry to Barton I have uniformly abstained from soliciting an individual to give the preference to the “Public Opinion,” rather than to the Corporate Cheater, so, in electioneering matters I think, acting on the same principle, that it is sufficient to proffer better services, leaving the option of their acceptance with those who are most deeply in-

terested in the result. There are a few persons who pay a Shilling in support of monopoly, instead of Fourpence in aid of Free Trade; and those are they who would, at an election, vote for a political trader in preference to a practical reformer. If it be asked, “How is this?”—I would say that it is a question with fools to think that which is most costly most desirable, and that of the few who choose to be extravagant, a large majority think more highly of themselves in proportion as others think more meanly of them. The little aristocracy of Hull go by the Corporate Cheater and pay their Shilling, whilst “the people” embark on board Public Opinion and pay their Fourpence. At an election the division will be much the same, with this difference, however, that the question will vary from “Who charges least?” to “Who gives most?”

At Bristol, the Corporators and West India interest resolved to buy their men in, and they bought their bargain—James Evan Baillie having spent upwards of £45,000 to secure his election against Public Opinion—whereupon I had at least the consolation that as I could not prevent bribery, the poor burgesses got a better price on the sale of their liberties than they otherwise would have had. After my liberal colleague Mr. Edward Protheroe, had resigned the contest, I kept the Poll open until the latest possible hour of the last possible day, to the great annoyance of the Corporate Aristocrats—receiving, on the termination of the contest, the especial public thanks of the Sheriffs for “the very manly and gentlemanly manner in which I had throughout conducted myself.”

In sober truth I never expected to be returned, and therefore was not disappointed in the result. But great change has taken place in the last thirteen months and the hereditary aristocrats of the land seem bent on a yet greater change, the setting up of rank and riches against principle and Public Opinion! Never was there a period of our history more pregnant with important events than the present—inclusive of the ensuing months. The people have to regain their station in the Commonwealth. The source of power has to be acknowledged by those who, without Public Opinion must be powerless—and, in this great moral revolution—this important national reformation, Kingston-upon-Hull has to take her place and assume the rank positive importance and comparative influence which belongs to her. Shall that place be lost? Shall that rank be subordinate? Let the inhabitants decide!

If I judge not of you too favourably—if I appreciate you truly—you, or at least a vast majority of you, are determined as men to maintain your rights and defend your privileges. You need but a right-headed and a right-hearted leader.—Well! there is George Lee—the Whig lawyer Thompson. What! will not that satisfy you? How unreasonable you must be! Though the one wink at local abuses, and the other will not sit down with a practical reformer—they are both Whigs—and both, if you will take their words for reformers. But a truce with badinage, and in a seri-

mood let me assure you that if you pin your faith on a Whig reformer you are very likely to be embroiled against reform when it may be advocated in the abstract by the Tories—and which is not impossible; for either of those parties would give Reform or Gagging Bills to the country as circumstances might require, or opportunity permit. Traders in professions and principles, give them power and you will make them tyrants; trust them, and you will deserve to be deceived; give them credit for honesty, and, it is ten to one, you will find their hands in your pockets.

On Wednesday next, I will submit to your consideration a third letter on the general bearings of the many questions necessarily forced upon my attention by my determination to accept your free suffrages at the next election of members for this town and county.

Meanwhile I subscribe myself,

Your faithful servant,

JAMES ACLAND.

A COPY OF THE CHARTER GRANTED BY KING CHARLES THE SECOND TO THE TOWN OF HULL, DATED THIRD OF DECEMBER, ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY ONE.

Charles the II. by the Grace of God, of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all whom these present Letters shall come, Greeting. Whereas, our Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull, in the County of the Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull, is a Town very ancient and populous, of ancient times has been a Town, Borough incorporate, and that the Inhabitants thereof, and their Predecessors, diverse Liberties, Franchises, Privileges, and Immunities, hitherto have, and holden of the Gifts and Grants of our Progenitors, in time past Kings and Queens of England, which Grants, truly to the Inhabitants, were made out by one name of Corporation, but by various and diverse names, (*to wit*) certain Grants were made to them by the name or names of Burgesses of the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull, and other Grants were made to them by the name of Burges and Committy, or Commonality of the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull, and other Grants were made unto them by the name or names of the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull, and other Grants were made them by the name or names of the Mayor and Burgesses of the Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull, and other Grants by some other names. And whereas, our well beloved Subjects the new Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid, have humbly supplicated us that we to the said Mayor and Burgesses our Kingly grace and munificence in this point would graciously exhibit and extend, and that we for the better government, and rule, and better-

ing of the said Town or Borough, the said Mayor and Burgesses of the said Town or Borough into one uniform Body Corporate and Politic, by the name of the Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull, by our Letters Patent we would vouchsafe to ratify, confirm, and constitute, reduce or create of new, with addition and augmentation of certain Liberties for the Public good, and better government of the said Town and Borough as to us shall seem expedient. We therefore, graciously affecting the bettering of the said Town or Borough, and considering that the said Town or Borough is situate upon the Water of Humber, which is an Arm of the Sea, and also weighing of the good and secure keeping of the said Borough or Town, the Defence and safety of our People, of the Parts adjacent, the the hostile assault of Strangers from the Sea, and otherwise might greatly come. And moreover that the said Burgesses might quietly attend their own Negotiations and in the Business of us and our Heirs in the time to come might be more ready, and therefore we willingly, that from henceforth, for ever after in the same Town or Borough shall continually be had, one certain and indubitable manner of, and for the custody of the Peace, and for the good Rule and Government of the People there, and that the said Town or Borough from henceforth, and for ever may be and remain a Town and Borough of Peace and quietness, for the fear and terror of the evil, and for the reward of the good, and that our Peace and Acts of Justice there, without further delay may be kept and hoping that if the Burgesses of the said Town or Borough, and their Successors, by our Grant, might enjoy and have more ample Honors, Libertie, and Privileges, than to the Services which they are able too us, our Heirs and Successors, they would think themselves more specially and strongly bound to do and perform; of our special grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, we have ordained, constituted, and granted, and by these Presents, for us, our Heirs and Successors, we will ordain, constitute, declare and grant, that the said Town and Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull, in the said County of the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull, henceforth, for ever, is, and shall be, a free Town, or free Borough of itself, and that the Burgesses of that Town or Borough, and their Successors, here after, are, and shall be by force of these Presents, one Body Corporate and Politic, in truth, deed, and name, of one Mayor and Burgesses of the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull, and that by the same name of Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull, one Body Corporate and Politic, in truth, deed, and name, really and fully, for us, our Heirs, and Successors, we do erect, make, ordain, constitute, confirm, and declare by these Presents, and that by the same name they shall have perpetual succession, and that they by the name of Mayor and Burgesses of the Town o

Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull, are and shall be in perpetual future times, persons capable of the Law, to have, obtain, receive and possess, Mansions, Tenements, Liberties, Privileges, Jurisdictions, Franchises and Hereditaments of what times, nature, or form soever they be, to them and their Successors in Fee and perpetually, and all Goods and Chattels, and all other Things, of what kind, nature, or form soever they be. Moreover to give, grant, demise, and assign, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, Goods, Chattels and all and singular other Deeds and Things, to do and execute by the name aforesaid, and that by the same name of Mayor and Burgesses of the Town and Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull, they may, shall and be able to plead and be impleaded, to answer and be answered, to defend and to be defended in whatsoever Courts and Places; and before whatsoever Judges and Justices, and other Persons and Officers, and of our Heirs and Successors, in all Suits, Complaints, Pleas, Causes, Matter, and Demands whatsoever, of what kind, nature, or form soever they be, in the same manner and form as other our liege People of this our Kingdom of England, personable and in Law capable to plead, impleaded to answer and to be answered to defend and to be defended, and to have, receive, possess, give, demise, and are able and can. And that the Mayor and Burgesses of the said Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull, and their Successors may have for ever a Common Seal to serve for the doing of their Causes and Business, and to their Successors whatsoever, and that it may be lawful to the said Mayor and Burgesses and their Successors, that, and at their pleasure from time to time to break, change, and make of new, as best to them shall seem meet to be made and be. And furthermore we will and by these presents for us and for our Heirs and Successors we do grant and ordain that for ever hereafter there be, and shall be in the Town or Borough aforesaid one of the more honest and discreet Aldermen of the Town or Borough aforesaid, for the time being in form below in these presents mentioned, chosen and shall be named Mayor of the Town or Borough aforesaid. And likewise that there be and shall be within the same Town or Borough one honest and discreet Burgess of the Town or Borough aforesaid beneath in these presents mentioned chosen, who shall be and shall be named the Sheriff of the said Town or Borough and County of the Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull aforesaid. And also we will and by these presents for us our Heir and Successors, we do Grant and ordain that hereafter these may and shall be within the Town or Borough aforesaid, from time to time thirteen honest and discreet Men inhabiting and dwelling within the said Town or Borough who shall be and shall be called Aldermen of the said Town or Borough aforesaid. And we will and by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant that the Aldermen of the Town or Borough for the time being shall be and shall be called the Com-

mon Council of the Town or Borough aforesaid, and they shall be from time to time assisting to the said Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull aforesaid, for the time being in all Causes and matters touching or concerning the said Borough or Town. And furthermore we will and by these presents for us, our Heirs, and Successors, do grant to the aforesaid Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid, and the greater part of the Aldermen of the Town or Borough for the time being, may have and shall have full power and authority of composing, constituting, ordaining, and making from time to time such and such like Laws, Patents, and Ordinances reasonable, which to them shall seem to be good, wholesome, profitable, honest, and necessary according to their sound discretions for the well ruling and well governing of the Burgesses, Artificers and Inhabitants of the Town or Borough aforesaid for the time being, and for the declaration in what manner and order the aforesaid Mayor, and Sheriffs, and Burgesses, and Artificers, Inhabitants and residents of the Town or Borough aforesaid, for the time being, in their offices, mysteries and businesses, within the Town or Borough aforesaid and limits of the same, for the time being, themselves, shall behave, carry, and use, and otherwise, for the further good and public profit, and government of the said Town or Borough, and for the victualling of the same Town or Borough, and, also for the better preservation, government, disposition, letting, and dividing of the Lands, Tenements, Revenues, and Hereditaments to the aforesaid Mayor and Burgesses, and their successors, given, granted, assigned, confirmed, or hereafter to be given, granted, or assigned, and other the matters and causes whatsoever, of the Town or Borough aforesaid, or the state, right, and interests of the same Town, touching, or in any any-wise concerning, and, that they and their successors, by the Mayor of the Town or Borough aforesaid, and the greatest part of the Aldermen of the said Town or Borough, for the time being, as often as such like laws, statutes, and ordinances they have made, ordained, and established in form aforesaid, such like and such reasonable fines permitted, and by punishments by imprisonment of body, or by fines and amercements, or by either of them, towards, and upon the delinquents against such like laws, statutes or ordinances, any of them, they may impose, or set down such to the said Mayor, and the greater part of the Aldermen, of the same Town or Borough, shall seem to be reasonable, shall, and may, and that they shall and may levy, and have the same fines and amercements, to do, and use for the profit of the same Town or Borough aforesaid, without hinderance of us, our heirs, or successors, which, all and singular laws, statutes, and ordinances, so as is aforesaid to be made; we will be observed under the pain, in the same contained, so, that notwithstanding such like laws, statutes, ordinances, and imprisonment, fines, and amercements, shall not be repugnant, or

contrary to the laws, statutes, customs, or justices, of our Kingdom of England, and for the better execution of the same, our will and grants, in this part we have assigned, constituted, named, and made, and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, we do assign, and constitute and make our well beloved GEORGE COWLE, now Mayor of the Town and Borough aforesaid, to be and shall be the first and present Mayor of the Town or Borough and County of the same, willing that the said George Cowle in the office of Mayor of the said Town or Borough shall be and continue from the making these presents until and upon the day next following the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next coming, and of the same day, until another of the Aldermen of the Town or Borough to and for that office be made and sworn, according to the ordinances and constitutions in these presents hereafter expressed and declared if the said George Cowle shall so long live. Also we have assigned constituted named and made by these presents, for us our heirs and successors do assign name constitute and make our well-beloved Philip Wilkinson, now Sheriff of the said Town or Borough and County of the same, to continue in the said office until and after the aforesaid next day following the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel and of the same day, until one other of the Burgesses of the said Town or Borough to and in the office of Sheriff of the said Town or Borough and County of the same shall be made and sworn according to the ordinances and constitutions in these presents expressed and declared, if he the same Philip Wilkinson so long shall live. Also we have assigned and constituted and made and by these presents our heirs and successors do assign and constitute and make our well-beloved Thomas Raikes, William Dobson, Robert Ripley, William Masters, Robert Barrice, William Foxley, Wm. Ramsden, Christopher Robinson, Richard Robinson, Geo. Cowle, Richard Wilson, William Raikes and Richard Ververs, Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid, to be and shall be the thirteen first and present Aldermen of the Town or Borough aforesaid, to continue in the said offices of Aldermen of the same Town or Borough during their natural lives, except in the mean time for evil government or carrying themselves evilly in that part they be removed from that office or they or any of them shall be removed: AND FURTHERMORE we will and by these presents we do command that the Mayor in being of the Town or Borough aforesaid before he in any manner of way doth act or intermeddle in the office of the Mayor of that Town or Borough, shall take his corporal oath upon the Holy Gospel of God before our well-beloved subjects William Dobson, Robert Ripley, and William Maisters, or any two or one of them to execute that office well and faithfully, in all things awarding to the duty in the same office, and to which Wm. Dobson, Robert Ripley, and William Raikes, or to any two or one of them to give and administer the oath to the aforesaid present Mayor of the same Town or Borough in form aforesaid, full authority and power we do grant by these presents: AND FURTHERMORE, we will,

declare and command by these presents, that all the aforesaid Aldermen and the aforesaid Sheriff of the Town or Borough aforesaid above in and by these presents respectively named or constituted before they or any of them upon their office or offices respectively aforesaid any manner of way do act or intermeddle or doth act or intermeddle, their corporal oath upon the Holy Gospel of God before the aforesaid George Cowle now Mayor of the Town or Borough aforesaid, to execute their Office and Offices respectively well and faithfully in all things according to the duty of the said Offices they shall take, and to whom the said George Cowle now Mayor of the Town or Borough to give or administer that Oath to the aforesaid Alderman and said Sheriff and to every of them in form aforesaid, full power and authority we do give and grant by these presents.

(To be continued.)

MESSRS. CRAVEN AND LAMBERT.

GENTLEMEN.—Permit me to give you a little advice previously to the commencement of your official duties. Do not imitate preceding Chamberlains, by paying the Town's-Husband, to keep the accounts of the public, and to keep you in ignorance; but discharge the trust reposed in you, *yourselves*; so that when you appear before a Committee of the House of Commons, which you are very likely to have to do, you may be able to let your townsmen see that you are more careful Guardians of the public purse than any of your predecessors have been.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—I am not surprised at the Clergy attacking you, but think they would be better employed in assisting the public to purify our vicious Church Establishment, of the immoral, irreligious, and rapacious Aristocrats who have got into it, and destroyed its respectability. I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

A FRIEND TO THE CHURCH.

P. S. The Trinity House had a *little* dinner on the Coronation Day, and *public* dinners on Wednesday and Saturday of the same week; therefore, your Correspondent, the Ship-Owner, was not far wrong.

MEM:—*I have it in my serious consideration not to run my Packet or publish my Portfolio on the Sabbath—that is, Saturday, the seventh day, which the fourth commandment enjoins us religiously to observe. In such case, my publication would appear on Tuesdays and Fridays. I am astonished that Mr. Beverley, of Beverley, has not touched on the irreligious observance of the first day, to the neglect of the true Sabbath; by our Pharisaic State Church; but I need no prompter and after due consideration of so important a subject, will determine as may appear to me to be correct.* J. A.

PORTRAITS OF PARTICULAR PERSONS IN 1826;

BY TIMOTHY TICKLE, ESQ.

What noble heroes! and what noble deeds!
Are now become the sport of filthy weeds!
Full many a King and Conqueror, whose name
Once fill'd the trumpet of far sounding fame,
Now sleep forgotten in the tomb of time,
Because they live not in the realms of rhyme.

Hail! sacred muse, and aid the poet's skill,
To render man immortal by his quill,
Feed his dull lamp, with thy reviving oil,
The task itself will recompense the toil.

But whom from out the honourable throng
Shall I select, to consecrate my song?
I pause to choose, for as I gaze around
On such a throng, "with blushing honours crown'd,"
The laurel leaf which I would fain present,
Appears to wither at my bold intent.

On yon bleak shore where muddy Humber roars,
Where fogs arise, and constant Winter pours
His pelting rains; where east winds ever blow,
And bowling, drive along the drifts of snow,
There stands a town, once famed, so annals say,
For daring to resist a Tyrant's sway;
Where sturdy walls defied the hostile blow,
And battlements frown'd menace to the foe.
Where now those towers of strength? where now those walls?
See how mean avarice the mind enthral!
Those mighty barriers, which their father's reared,
Defensive of their homes, to them endeared,
How vanished now? and not a stone to tell!
Where fought such heroes! and such heroes fell!
Are those descendants of that noble race?
To rancid oil, must spoils of war give place?
Shall fetid blubber, now pollute the air?
When heads of foes were hung as trophies there!
A bible now surmount the warrior crest!
And deal forth Holy Writ to souls opprest!
To whom, the sword, when drawn in honest cause,
Dealt justice, and gave energy to laws.

Behold yon crowd,† each drest in civic gown,
Those gaping sages rulers of the town,
See how they stalk along with solemn pace,
In Marshall'd rank, while in each vacant face,
Sits still stupidity, who potent rules,
And stamps them all her own, her motley fools.
These are the men, whose wisdom must dispense,
The rights of justice against common sense,
By whose decree the wrong becomes the right,
Right wrong, and black is changed to white,
By reasoning profound they can define,
Why noses bloom with red by drinking wine,
And can explain at dinner to each guest,
Why fishes swim, and where they swim the best,
|| Lo! foremost, hugest, wrapt in coat of mail,
His scarlet cloak, rolls on the human whale,
The Butchers' mark him with a roguish eye,
And paviours gladly lay their mallets by,
The children scream to see this monster man,
To them the hugbear giant cormoran;
And young maids jeer, to think how nature could,
Compose of clay this mass of flesh and blood.

Behind him totters on with creeping gait,
Clad too in all the majesty of state,
The father of the flock, a hoary sage,
Full of wise saws, and proverbs of the age,

* The Inhabitants refused to open the Gates of the Town to Charles the First, when summoned by that Monarch. † C-r-p-t-t-n.

: Fishes swim in the Sea, in the Pots and in the Stomach.—Alderman's Creed.
Jo. Egg—nt—n, Esq. I Suppose W. Osb—ne, Esq.

Who tells one gravely, how a stitch in time
Will save a Tailor's bill; but says the prime
Of all the wisest sayings in the lot,
Is this, "A penny sav'd's a penny got."

Who has not seen to grace some puppet show,
A Monkey, grinning to the crowd below,
In scarlet vest he struts, a pompous elf,
Lost in the vast importance of himself!

Lo! this great little man, with pucker'd lips,
Contracted eyebrows, and with hands on hips,
Looks harmless terror on the gazing throng
Like China's monarch, far famed "Kien-Long."

Sly Kitty next presents his godlike form,
Like sturdy oak defying Winter's storm,
With head askance, and leering thro' his glass
He smiles on all—as meek—as Balaam's ass.

Conceited Wiseacre* puffed up with pride,
Twice Mayor elect, walks stiffly by his side,
Shaking his purse, sweet music to the ear,
Of beggar bankrupts, who bring up the rear.

Hail! worthy justice, man of great renown!
The elder of the quorum,— J * * * B * * *
Firm friend to hapless babes and Persian cats,
Patron of treadmills, and dread foe to rats!

With reverential awe to thee I bow,
Smooth then the furrows of thy wrinkled brow,
Forget the cares, which to thy state belong,
And deign a smile, to gild the poet's song.

But bark! what sounds do now my hearing greet?
'Tis some poor wretch before the judgment seat;
He pleads for mercy! poverty's his crime!
But pleads in vain,— "A Justice has not time

"To listen to such prayers,—'tis not the vogue,
"Commit him therefore as an idle Rogue"—
"Your worship stay—at least some pity's due,
"A Wife and Children"— eh? commit them too!"

Here comes a boaster, full of big design,
A wondrous man, Philosopher, Divine,
Musician, Orator, and eke Buffoon;
His vain ambition e'en would grasp the Moon,

For he can tell of sights which he has seen,
Alone, and places where none else hath been,
Can speak a language now to others lost,
And knows how much the Tower of Babel cost,

Relates adventures dire, and without fail
Elects himself the Hero of the Tale—
"Oft as I stray'd upon the banks of Nile,
"I rode like Cupid, on a Crocodile,

"And Indian like, I've pulled my longest bow,
"The arrow flew, and laid a Tiger low!—
Hold, great Munchausen of the present age,
Thy tales of wonder sully my bright page.

Offspring of "Norman" blood thy fame outvies,
The fame of him 'yclept the King of Lies;
Let sense and reason gag thy lying mouth,
And "shame the Devil," Sir, "by speaking truth."

Who's he, exalted on Religion's seat,
A quondam Carpenter, a canting cheat,
A hungry wolf, who boldly dares profane,
God's holy Temple, filthy Parson L * * e!

Who measures consciences by line and rule,
And grants election sure to many a fool;
Avant thou bigot, cushion thumper, cease,
And learn from Godly men the words of peace;

Look where Religion's purest altars rise,
And breathe their incense, upwards to the skies,
See how meek charity doth hover round,
And bless the spot, as consecrated Ground,

'Tis not thy calling, take thy tools again,
And earn an honest living amongst men.

2 R. W. M—x—n, Esq. 3 C. B—lt—n, Esq. 4 C. Whit—k—t, Esq.
* Witacre—Printer's devil. 5 J—n—g Br—n, Esq.
6 J. Cr—se, Esq. 7 S. L—n, V. D. M.

Once more my muse assist thy humble Bard,
For Physic claims my most profound regard;
The Tree of Life and Health, in perfect bloom,
Yields to the air around, its rich perfume,
But 'mid the fragrance, there is mixed a breath,
Which like the Poison Tree, infuses Death;
Once noble spirits martyrs at the stake,
Resign'd their love of life for conscience sake,
But there are spirits now, who dare confront,
Grim visaged Death, and calmly bear the brunt
Of the dread conflict, not for paltry gain,
In strife, to assuage a fellow creature's pain;
There are too, pois'nous reptiles who destroy,
A Mother's happiness, a Father's joy,
Rob the young Infant of its dawning life,
And mar the prospects of a doating Wife;
I see the knaves, protending awful news,
E'en in the very creaking of their shoes.

Behold you meagre elf, with dingy looks,
Who gropes 'mid rotten bones, and dusty books,
With spectacles on nose, he would be wise,
But wisdom shines not in those poring eyes;
Yet who could crush a worm, or hurt a fly,
So let perplexity in darkness lie.

Knight of the pèstle, hail! bold cavalier!
Colossus of the knife! thy brethren's jeer!
Stand forth in all thy native pomp and pride,
And heed not scoffers when they would deride,
Envied by midwives, by old maids caressed,
The sport of young ones, and their standing jest,
Erect thy head, stretch forth thy goodly legs,
And smile when children call them bandy pegs,
If dogs do bark at thee, deal forth thy kicks,
"Because thou was not made for sportive tricks,"
"Thou'st rudely stamp'd," but thou dost bear a mind
So rich in arrogance, and so pur-blind,
To aught save thy dear self, that it is told,
When nature made thee, she then broke the mould;
The frog in fable story, who, a fool
Would fain in size be equal to a bull,
Is not like thee, nor is the famed baboon,
Who'd seen the world and used a silver spoon,
Thou art the noblest without aid of rhyme
That ever lived in the tide of time!!!

List, List, I hear a learn'd professor speak
A mongrel language is it heathen Greek—?
Or harsher Scotch? are these his sleepy class,
Who snore in concert to his deep rough bass?

"Ye a' do know, young Gentlemen,
"As we'e'l as I mysel' do ken,
"That ye ha' each twa hand—twa hands
"Each mon twa feet—on which he stands,
"Each hand a thumb—and fingers four,
"Which mak' the gither half a score,
"Beside ye ken, as I suppose,
"Ye hae nae mare than twa wee toes,
"Wi hands you learn to cut your meat,
"And learn to walk upo' your feet,
"The use o' these is vary plain,
"I'll no' repeat it o'er again,
"In your insides you ha' a bag,
"The stomach call'd—I winna brag
"But I do think the best ye can,
"Compare it too, is a stew pan,
"For there the food is stew'd and stew'd,
"Till it doth mak' your vary blude,—
"That worthy mon ye see behin'
"That's smiling now a pleasant grin
"Does ever pay as much respect'
"To his good stomach as his neck,

"And thinks that if he keep bath warm,
"He can defy all outward harm,
"He's vary rich, nae doubt, nae do't,
"Ye reach the Stomac' by the throat,
"Thus Gentlemen you needs must see,
"How much you learn by hearing me,
"I wad say mare for ye to list—
"I gang to play a game at whist."

I see a nose turn'd up to beg a line,
Egad 'tis pitiful—but don't repine,
Tho' fame desires the triumph of a laurel
She gives a foolscap and without a moral,
"A henpecked husband is a sorry devil,
"A scolding wife's a most accursed evil."

In cutting corns, or capers, or a wart,
Thou hast no fellow in the range of art,
But sad to tell, thy wife, alas, who stitches,
Assumes prerogative to wear the breeches.

Here comes a member of that suppliant crew,
Who cringe and flatter in their "vary boo"
His body meekly bent, in humble mood,
To steal your purse in Friendly Brotherhood;
An abject crowd at morn besiege his gate,
To pay the pittance of the dirty rate,
His charity demands, for his advice,
He gives not that away without its price;
A foul prescription and forsooth a prayer,
To bless the damned Potion written there,
He robs the poor man of his little store,
And preaches patience as he shuts the door.

Not so that man of venerable mein,
There true nobility alone is seen,
There virtue sits triumphant on her throne,
And genius smiles, exulting on her own;
I love that form, just emblem of a mind,
So fraught with wisdom, dignified and kind,
That hand as open to the wretch in need,
As heart to prompt the goodwill of the deed,
The poor man's blessing, and his grateful tears
Shall gild the kindly Winter of thy years,
And when bereft of thee, by nature's doom,
The mournful tribute, shall bedew the tomb.

Who next demands a line? who asks for bays,
Methinks there's not a subject fit for praise,
I cannot laud the viper that would wound,
The friendly hand, that raised it from the ground,
And gave it life again, 'mid Winters frost,
But little dreaming of the deadly cost.

Thou deaf old woman void of every sense
As well as hearing, trumpet-er * from hence!
Ye pack of hoary sinners, old in crime,
You are not meet to dignify my rhyme.

Men who respect not honor's sacred laws
Nor pity know, ye goats! tis time to pause:
Awhile, for Hark!! I hear the passing bell,
Which rings an awful boding in its knell,
I see an artist and what's more good luck,
The propagator of his kind black J—

I see a barber, with a bardolph nose,
An honest man, a merry wag, who mows
The roughest stubble, from the bearded chin,
Without abrasion to the finest skin;
I see a hungry critic, and a host,
Of other men, who make no little boast,
But fame is sparing of her laurel crowns,
And ever prodigal of angry frowns,
She blows her trumpet with a sounding blast,
But wanting breath the dame hath blown her last,
My Muse is weary, and prepares for flight,
So now I bid "to each and all"—good night.

12 Mr. Lunn. 13 Dr. T—nt—H. 14 Dr. Afternoon
15 Suppose Mr. F—ld—ng: and No. 14. * Read Trumpet-cw.
16 G. Egg—ton. 17 J. W—lb—n.

a Mr. H—nt—ng—n. 9 Mr. Cr—v—r, Junr.
10 Mr. Y—ng—n. 11 Mr. H—ng—n. 12 Mr. H—ng—n.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

MR. EDITOR,—Excuse me for calling your attention to a circumstance which occurred last week in this town, in the billeting of soldiers. It is a proof, if proofs were wanting, of the partiality and tyranny which the magistrates and their underlings exercise against what is called two-penny shops, whenever they have it in their power. It is customary in billeting soldiers, to send them in numbers proportionate to the size of the inn where they are to be accommodated. But mark the cruelty of our just-asses, not only to the soldiers, but to these little publicans. Instead of sending them in that proportion, they send none to the large inns, or their favourite large dram shops, where the underlings can, at any time have a glass, gratis—but send them by threes and fours to the two-penny shop, where they have no spare bed, and many of them only a low room and chamber.—Can this be right?

I am, Sir,

Yours, respectfully,

HULL, Sept. 14th, 1831.

T. A. H.

MEM:—*To be sure it is right—because we live in the reign of wrong—but the Lords will, one way or another, help us to our own. The time is big with events; at their birth all the little abortions will be smothered.*

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

DEAR SIR,—I perceive by a former number of your excellent Portfolio, that it is your intention to probe the abuses existing in the Public Charities, with which this town abounds; and, as you are a total stranger to the place, I consider it a duty I owe the people of this town, to acquaint them, through your columns, of the following gross mis-application of the funds left by once pious and benevolent inhabitants of this town.

The subject of my complaint is a person of the name of Holdsworth, well known to most of the good looking lads in the town, by the name of Billy Holdsworth. This fellow boasts of his having a Stock-in-Trade, worth, at his own shewing, £400. which consists in a circulating library and musical instruments, which he is in the habit of letting out for the best prices he can obtain. The way he got possession of a room in Sisters' Hospital, on the south side of the Holy Trinity Church, one of the Public Charities, is as follows.

About two years ago, and for a long time previous, he occupied a shop in Lowgate, which, I believe, belongs to the Corporation of Mayor and Aldermen of this town, which shop, as well as the occupier, was lost in dirt completely, and a nuisance to the whole of the street; they (the Aldermen) in order to get rid of this public nuisance, offered to give Holdsworth, if he would take his goods away, and give up possession of the house and shop, one of the rooms, which he did, being nothing, loth to get provided for in that way, and is now actually receiving from such charity 7s. per week, besides Coals, &c. Some short time after he got the room, he thought it

below him, (for he has as high notions as his Patrons) to live there solely, so he took part of a house in the neighbourhood of Cottingham, where he went to reside, and, after he had had the country house about a year, he got the poor people, in distress, who occupied the other part, turned out, and then immediately offered to give the landlord 20 guineas a year for the house. Is this what we call charity? or did the benefactor found the Hospital as a receptacle for public nuisances, or was it founded for the relief of the really indigent?

Mr. Editor, if it were possible for the worthy founder to visit the worthless trustees of his noble charity, I should not envy them, their giving an account of their stewardship.

I am afraid I have already trespassed upon your time and patience, but trust my wish for public enquiry, will plead my apology.

I remain,

Dear Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

HULL, Oct. 6th, 1831.

A. F. C.

MEM:—*I refer my correspondent to my letter to the Trustees of Public Charities, in another part of my present publication.*

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—You would oblige me if you can answer me one question; that is, whether the Corporation of Hull is justifiable or not in making a demand upon me for the sum of £1. 9s. on taking up my freedom? I was born free, in this town, and when at the age of twenty-one, I went to the Town's Hall to take the Burgess Oath, which they would not permit, unless I paid the above-mentioned sum. I accordingly paid it, and, coming out of the Hall, I was detained by a Mayor's Officer, who demanded 1s. more, which made the sum £1. 10. Whether this be legal or illegal I cannot tell; but it appears very hard to me to see a poor lad that is born free, compelled, perhaps, to sell something to purchase his freedom, when, at the same time, he is entitled to it of right.

—Yours, respectfully,

October 6th, 1831.

A BURGESS.

MEM:—*It is part of the swindling system under which the poor burgess is robbed, that his trustee may riot in beastly extravagance. What care the Aldermen whether the poor freeman sells his bed, to pay this fee? Nothing; all he cares for being the quantum of wine after the next corporate dinner.*

J. A.

Those who think to frighten me, by their ridiculous threats may save themselves much trouble and some ink. The Editorial friends of E. F. S. will pause before they lend themselves to his views. But he and they may try the game, he speaks of, whenever it pleases them; they shall find I am neither to be coaxed nor frightened from the PUBLIC DUTY I have undertaken.

J. A.

Printed and Published by JAMES ACLAND, sole Proprietor and Editor, No. 3, Mytongate, Hull.

Bull Portfolio;

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES ACLAND.

"Bonis nocet quisquis pepererit malis."—CICERO.
HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS BY JAMES ACLAND,
SOLE PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR, NO. 3, MYTONGATE, HULL.

Vol. I.—No. 10. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1831. Twopence.

TO THE PEOPLE OF HULL.

MY FRIENDS.—*I am happy to inform you, that the Meeting suddenly convened by me for the consideration of the alarming state of the Country, consequent on the rejection of the Reform Bill, by the Upper House of Parliament, was numerously attended yesterday, and the Resolutions then proposed (Mr. Jackson being in the Chair), unanimously and triumphantly carried.*

The following were the Resolutions so carried;—

1. That the rejection of the Reform Bill by the House of Lords, is a refusal of justice to the people, and fatal evidence of the utter indifference of the higher classes, to the wants and claims of the millions, upon whom they would perpetuate the oppression, to which they have so long subjected them.
2. That the Aristocracy of this Country is no longer entitled to the estimation, or respect of the people, they having sacrificed their bounden duty to their imagined interests in their recent refusal to permit the Commons' House of Parliament to regenerate itself.
3. That the conduct of the great majority of the Bench of Bishops, in siding with corruption, and against the justice and peace which the Reform Bill would secure, and which Christianity inculcates, have forfeited all claim to the veneration, and respect of the people.
4. That an hereditary Aristocracy is the height of absurdity, inasmuch as virtue and talent are not hereditary, and, as without those essentials of real nobility no man can be ennobled, out to the prejudice of the state, and the degradation of the national character.
5. That we anxiously trust our beloved Monarch will never withdraw his confidence in the present Administration, so long as they support the reform of existing abuses, with zeal and sincerity; and that we are the more anxious for a reform of existing abuses, by reason of the oppression, and illegal usurpation of our local Corporate government.
6. That our Patriot King be immediately appealed to, in protection of his loyal people from the iron sway of an unprincipled and heartless oligarchy.
7. That to such end, a loyal and respectful, but firm and uncompromising declaration of the just rights and equitable claims of the nation, expressive of the sentiments embodied in the above resolutions, be forthwith prepared.

8. That Mr. James Acland be authorised and requested to draw up such declaration (and on its approval by Mr John Jackson the chairman of this meeting) to cause it to lie for signature at his Office in Mytongate, by ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

9. That such declaration shall so remain for signature, until twelve o'clock on Friday night next, the 14th Oct. instant, and that it be forwarded to London on the following day, by a deputation composed of Messrs Jackson, Walworth, Richmond, Lowther, and Acland, (with power to add to their numbers,) for instant presentation to our beloved Sovereign.

10. That Mr. Acland's proffer of a free passage to such deputation in his Steam Packet "PUBLIC OPINION," be gratefully accepted.

When the formal business of the Meeting had been gone through, I exhibited and read to the congregated thousands the following Document:

I do hereby solemnly declare that until the People are represented in Parliament, or the Reform Bill proposed by his Majesty's Ministers passed, I will pay no taxes, or other illegal demands—it being a fundamental principle of a Representative Government, that there should be no taxation without representation, and the present House of Commons having a majority of its members corruptly, unconstitutionally, and illegally foisted into the assembly where all taxes originate.

HULL, 11th Oct. 1831.

JAMES ACLAND.

This Document will lie at my Office in Mytongate for Signatures, together with the Declaration drawn up by me pursuant to the requisit on of the Public Meeting, and duly approved by its respected Chairman.—MEN OF HULL,—I HAVE DONE MY DUTY: DO YOURS.

JAMES ACLAND.

COPORATE CONUNDRUMS.

- Q. When are our Aldermen most sulky?
A. When the Steam of "Public Opinion" blows in their faces.
Q. When did the march of intellect most flourish in this town?
A. When Hull's "Collective Wisdom" chose *Rakes* to govern them.
Q. When have the Hull people most recently manifested their love of liberty?
A. When they knocked a *Bolt* off the Coporate chain instead of permitting the imposition of another *Bolt-on*.

STEPHEN.

QUERY.—Should it be "*Raikes*."? Printers Devil.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

Hull, Oct. 4th, 1831.

MR. EDITOR,

SIR,—Until a few days ago certain streets in this *well regulated* town were divided into districts for the delivery of Letters, and have been so for several years, but our sagacious Post Master, in his wisdom, hath thought proper to include the two in one, though since they were formed into two the population hath increased; these districts (now one) are the centre of the town, being the Market-Place, (*or Street*) and adjoining streets. If any alteration had been made the number of letter carriers ought to have been increased rather than reduced. To individuals living near the Post Office it may not be any serious inconvenience, but to those of the extremities it is so, they not getting their letters until near seven o'clock; three hours after the arrival of the Mail. These, Mr. Editor, are things as they are; not as they ought to be; but the best is to come. The letter carrier, so promoted, now that he hath two districts instead of one, or in other words, now that he does the labour of two men, gets one additional *shilling*. *What unbounded liberality!* If it is not the march of intellect, 'tis the gallop of avarice and the march of oppression. I wish, Mr. Editor, you would give this said tenant of the Crown a castigation; he richly deserves it for thus inconveniencing the public and grudging the poor, to please his caprice or gratify his avarice.

Yours, &c. J. P.

MEM.—Mr. Rodwell again! Another slip of birch towards the ROD-WELL-pickled for his own back.

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—I perceive in that incurable paper *The Packet*, the following observation, "That the shipowners have paid quarantine charges, since January 1st. £14633. 2s. at a time too when this respectable body are receiving less remuneration for the use of their property than any other body of capitalists."

As the shipowners have got the Newspapers of this port in their service, it is only through you they can be exposed. Whilst many merchants in this place are sustaining very severe losses in silence, the shipowners are making a great clamour about having to pay £5. 14s. 6d. on each voyage from the Baltic, but they do not say that in consequence of having this fee to pay, (that dreadful disease the Cholera Mobus,) raging on the Continent, freights have been higher this season

than they were in 1830 by 30 to 50 per cent.; and that they have been making from £100. to £150. per voyage more than they did last year, which must be a very handsome compensation for having to pay £5. 14s. 6d. and experiencing a little detention under the quarantine regulations, not more in many instances than a week.

I do not approve of the servants of the public receiving Fees, and have no objection to the shipowners remonstrating with Government about the quarantine fee; but there is no occasion to get the Newspapers to annoy their readers with such a paltry matter. My impression is, that the shipowners have greatly benefited by the heavy visitation on the Continent, without giving the poor sailors, who risked their lives, any advance of wages. The shipowners are always complaining of not receiving remuneration for their capital, and yet when they lose a ship are never satisfied until they replace her. They appear to be the most dissatisfied persons in the country, although the nation makes greater sacrifices for them than for any other class. One sacrifice is the admission of Canadian Timber at a low duty. This loss to the revenue is between two and three millions annually, and must be made up by the consumers of tea, sugar, &c.

With your assistance I will go further into this subject, if any more puffing paragraphs of the shipowners appear in the *Packet* or *Advertiser*. It is time the inhabitants of Hull had their eyes opened.

I am, Sir, your most humble servant,

W. B.

MEM.—My columns are open to all parties, but I will be influenced by none. The fact stated in the above letter relative to the benefit derived by the Baltic shipowners, from the increased freightage consequent on the existing visitation of Providence, is unquestionable, and the unreasonableness of the grumbling of the shipowners thence manifest.

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—You have already pointed out several gross abuses in the distribution or application of Public Charities, and every rightly formed mind must rejoice at their detection and exposure, as a preparatory step to their correction. The purport of this is to relate a more flagrant misapplication of those charitable institutions than you have yet noticed.

There is a widow placed in the Charter-House here of the name of Bamford, whose husband, it is said, bequeathed her a well-furnished house and six hundred pounds besides, in money. It will naturally be asked what extraordinary merits this widow possessed, which procured her this comfortable situation. I do not suppose, nor will I insinuate, that this scandalous perversion of those funds, which ought to be regarded as

sacred and belonging exclusively to the poor, was occasioned by any *personal* merits of hers. Well then, who or what was her husband? Aye, now we come to the clue of the business.

Her husband was a barber, and shaved well I dare say. He was also employed by the worshipful Corporation of Mayor and Aldermen, to carry before them some bundle or other, in their processions to Church.

High merits these no doubt! But we must add to them that of being tax-gatherer, and this circumstance may account for his having so much money to bequeath and to enable his daughter to be as gaily attired as any Lady Mayoress.

Some of your readers are not aware of his high merit in the capacity of Collector of Taxes. Let them learn from me then, that he was the humble willing tool of those respectable Aldermen, Wm. Hall and C. Bolton, as Commissioners of Taxes, and the never-to-be-forgotten John Walker, Surveyor.

He and they, in their unjust spite to me, wilfully and cruelly violated the law.

This tool of theirs in executing their warrant of distraint could not be ignorant of its *illegality*, because it was contrary to the printed notices he distributed to the tax-payers. But mark the circumstances attending this black affair. After the *illegal* demand was made on me for twenty pounds and upwards, and after I had proved in writing that it was *illegal*, months and months passed away without any steps being taken to enforce it. At length my wife was taken seriously ill. She had a violent inflammation of the lungs and of the liver, and was in the last stage of pregnancy.

Two medical gentlemen attended her twice a day for some time, but gave little or no hopes of her recovery. One of them was Dr. Bodley, whose great and unwearied attention to her I shall ever remember with gratitude. His skill and care at length reduced the violence of the symptoms. "Still," said he, "she must be kept very quiet and have nothing to disturb her." - Scarcely had these words passed his lips, when Bamford steps in with a constable, to execute a Warrant of Distress, signed by the above *worshipful* Aldermen. He approached the bed-room where her feeble and emaciated frame was lying. Aware of his purpose, she uttered one of the most piercing shrieks. Two friends who were present afterwards made affidavit before the magistrates at York, (with a view not necessary to mention here) that from her great agitation and weakness they apprehended immediate dissolution. The magistrates, who happened to know me personally, looked at each other with astonishment, and even after the affidavit was signed, said, "Now is this *really* true!" The prompt reply was, "Most certainly." Both Bamford and Walker had the horrid candour to admit that they were aware beforehand of my wife's deplorable situation. Now as to the *illegality* of the matter, that point is decided at once by the fact that the Lords of the Treasury ordered the money to be paid back to me, and it was so paid by

the Receiver-General of Taxes, through the hands of Messrs. Pease and Liddell, Bankers.

Having thus unfolded the merits of Bamford, may I not ask, Is there any inconsistency of conduct in robbing the poor of the funds bequeathed to them, and giving them to the widow of such a man?

I have not here unfolded *half* of the merits of those *worshipful* men with regard to myself, and probably they think me very tardy in paying my respects to them in a suitable manner through the medium of your excellent publication. They may rest assured I have not forgotten them. In a tract, which I have ready for the press, due homage is paid to their transcendent virtues! I now conclude, with heartily congratulating you and *most* of your readers, in the language of Scripture, that "*the night*" of persecution and misery "*is far spent, the day is at hand,*" when the tyrants, oppressors and plunderers of the people shall be made to tremble!

Yours sincerely,

J. JACKSON, Bowlalley-Lane.

MEM:—*I know nothing of this case, personally; but the writer is not ashamed to authenticate it with his real signature, and from the character of Mr. J. I feel justified in observing that this recorded case speaks volumes. If it be not correct, let the accused parties answer it. If they do not, the public will be justified in assuming its accuracy.*

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—If you refer to the case of *Rex v. Osbourne*, which is reported, you will find that the Hull Corporation have not yet, or at least had not then, done any act whence it could be proved they had accepted the Charter of Charles II. you are publishing, and consequently were held to be entitled to consider themselves as governed by former Charters varying therefrom.—This seems to me absurd Law, but that does not prevent it being Law.

A LAWYER.

P. S. £1 of the £1 10s. charged on the admission of a Freeman is for stamp duty, how the other 10s. is made out I don't happen to know, as I paid what I was charged, without asking questions when I was admitted to my freedom.

MEM:—*I very much doubt this law, and think it not in the option of the Corporators to decide whether or not the people of Hull are to have the rights and privileges granted them by a former Sovereign without any such restrictive condition.*

J. A.

TO THE READERS OF THE PORTFOLIO.

Owing to the want of a vehicle such as the one with which I have supplied you, the public of Hull have seldom heard the truth, and when a sprinkling, by the way of variety, has been doled out to them, it has been so mingled and defaced by falsehood, that Solomon himself would have been puzzled to recognise its features. Many causes might readily be assigned for this mystification, but they are all easily combined in one, and that is entitled *selfishness*. Men who hire themselves to write a certain quantity of lines, daily, on certain subjects, and after stipulated models, may occasionally be right, yet this is merely accidental, and could not well be otherwise; but it is obvious that telling truth forms no essential part of the agreement with their employers, and it is therefore only from the independent that the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth can be expected. Even amongst such as are solely guided by the dictates of conscience, and whose most ardent and anxious wish is to see their fellow-creatures rescued from thralldom—even amongst such, the task of castigation is often entered upon with reluctance, and vice and oppression are permitted to stalk abroad clad in purple and fine linen, simply because the moral verger is sleeping on his post, and no one will take the trouble to arouse him from his slumber. This was notoriously the case in the town where I have fixed my residence. Might has too often lorded it over Right, and the poor have toiled while the rich were feasting on a portion of their earnings. This is not empty declamation; it is a calm serious statement, the truth of which cannot possibly be denied. Indeed, I have myself pointed out several instances where funds, furnished by the public to be available when the subscribers or others might require their aid, are ahamefully misapplied. Not unfrequently are such funds, or considerable portions of them, expended in procuring choice viands to gratify the pampered palates of those who have been constituted their stewards, or guardians. With the worthies of the Trinity-House, this is particularly the case, and much do I fear that no lecture of mine will ever restore to them a sense of the duties they so grossly neglect. True it is that I have told, and am continually telling them, in plain, good natured language, of the sins which they are perpetrating, yet hitherto without effect. Still do they indulge themselves with tit bits and collations. Nor should I think there was any great harm in all this, if the cost of the victuals and drink, did not come out of the pockets of those who are never permitted to show their faces at the banquet. No, no, "your lean unwashed artificer," must not mingle with the *gourmands* of the Holy-Trinity.

A few years ago, the peculators could plead loyalty as an example for their misdeeds, but do so they can no longer. George the fourth sleeps with his ancestors, I would not willingly disturb his repose. He remained

as long on the surface of the earth, as was necessary to convince his subjects that a change could not well be made for the worse. Take the following fact, which has now become matter of history. Sometime prior to the year 1816, a gentleman, named Tivutback died, having previously left by will upwards of £100,000, "to the trustees for erecting an additional wing, or separate building, to the charity school of St. John of Wapping, and for maintaining and educating poor children of that parish."

What was done with respect to this handsome donation? The will was set aside by the Court of Chancery, and the testator having no next of kin, the money went to the Crown." Now this was a most detestable affair, and affords a specimen of rascality worth the noting. "Lord Eldon set the will aside, and the property was applied to liquidate the royal debt." Thus were the children of numerous poor people deprived of that which a charitable individual had bequeathed to them. Thus was an excellent intention defeated, and a letter of the law made a stalking horse for robbery and oppression. It is by similar outrages of every thing which is just and honorable, that men in power incur the detestation and hatred of those over whom they play the tyrant, and risk, if they do not experience that fate from which tyranny has not always been able to escape.

Let the warmest partisan of despotism calmly consider the conduct of him who could meanly accept, and of him, the dispenser of Justice, forsooth, who could as meanly procure, the large sum left by Mr. Tivutback. The children of the poor were cheated out of their clothes and education that royalty might be amply provided with wine, women, and snuff-boxes. Let the partisan of despotism consider all this, and if he have a conscience, let him appeal to it, and cease to wonder that men have been, and will be, clamorous for reform.

Again, this George the IV. of whom I have been speaking, was a great favourite among the clergy. His debauchery was notorious, and yet bishops were his most intimate friends, and praised him, and held him up as a pattern to all christian kings! Strange, that holy men should so far forget their calling as to allow a prince to commit with impunity, and without expostulation, crimes that in their opinion, at least, would have doomed a less exalted personage to eternal perdition. To come nearer home, and finish my article. There are in this town of Kingston-upon-Hull, public bodies, whose business it is to manage the public affairs, and to see justice administered with impartiality—to relieve the distressed, who have legal claims to protection, and to economise for suitable purposes, the property with which they may be intrusted. If they performed these respective duties with integrity, they might laugh to scorn the attacks of their enemies. They might appeal to facts, and thus cover their opposers with shame and confusion. Accusations such as I prefer, could have no weight unless the

were founded on truth, for it is truth alone which renders them formidable. Did I advance any charge which I could not prove, can my readers think for a moment that corporate thunder would not be hurled against me, and corporate lightning wither me into nothingness? But I have neither heard the thunder, nor felt the lightning, and therefore I conclude, that the silence of the foe is a proof of the baseness of his cause, if not of his utter imbecility. "The press is open to all, and any man upon whose character an unjust attack is made, will do right to vindicate himself, provided the charge relate to a matter of fact which can be brought to a decisive issue." This is the recorded opinion of a very eminent author, and I have cited it for the use of all persons who may fancy themselves aggrieved.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—A few days ago, a poor fellow lost his life by the Corporation not having sufficient protection against the dangerous Coal-Landing-Staith, near the North-Bridge. Let me beg the favour of your making some enquiry into this affair. The inquest was held at Mr. Plaxton's public house, near the North-Bridge. Mr. C. Bolton was the Coroner. Mr. Plaxton charged Mr. Bolton with robbing him of a large sum of money; and Mr. Bolton threatened to take his license from him. Is his justice? Whatever claim Mr. Plaxton might or might not have, Mr. Bolton should not, as a magistrate, have used such language. But pray enquire into the matter. Your reward I am confident will be sufficient; be good arising from exposing such shameful conduct of so corrupt a body.

YOUR CONSTANT READER.

MEM:—Since the above letter was composed by the writer, I have instituted a rigid enquiry into its truth, and am happy in being enabled to add that the conduct of Christopher Bolton was not so gross as above represented. I believe the Landlord was drunk when he made the assertion imputed to him, and I have good reason for believing that he is altogether unable to justify his charge. The Aldermanic Coroner did threaten, but the threat was not much out of the way, although the tenure of the license is not conditional on the service of the Publican to an Alderman.

J. A.

ERRATUM.—In my denunciation of a recreant Whig lawyer, in my last publication, the name of Thompson was inadvertently substituted for the name of Johnson. Of the Solicitor of the former name I know nothing prejudicial, and much that is commendable. Of the latter I think as I write.

I have received a letter from Mr. Anthony Johnson, an Attorney, carrying on business in Bowlalley-Lane, on his subject, and am happy to meet his views by this public declaration, that he is not the trucking Whig lawyer of the same name.

J. A.

MY STEAM PACKET

PUBLIC OPINION,

WILL LEAVE THIS PORT FOR

LONDON,

WITH THE DEPUTATION TO HIS MAJESTY,

On Saturday next, October 15th, 1831.

At Six o'clock in the Morning.

THOSE disposed to avail themselves of this opportunity of visiting the metropolis, are requested to make immediate application at my office in Mytongate for such purpose, as only a limited number can be comfortably accommodated.

FARE TO LONDON.

After Cabin.....£1 5s. 0d. | Fore Cabin.....£0 15s. 0d.

FARE TO LONDON AND BACK TO HULL.

After Cabin.....£2 0s. 0d. | Fore Cabin.....£1 0s. 0d.

It is calculated that the "PUBLIC OPINION" will arrive in London on Sunday evening, leave the Metropolis on Wednesday, and reach Hull again on Thursday night.

An ample stock of provisions will be laid in for the accommodation of the passengers, and the charges will be of the most moderate description.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

Sir,

I beg leave to ask you the two following Questions, viz. -- 1st. Is it right and legal for the Church-Wardens and others of Holy Trinity Church, to LET and sometimes SELL, the Seats of the said Parish Church to persons who are NOT Parishioners?—2nd. Can any Parishioner who pays Easter Dues, Vicar's Salary, and his part towards defraying the Expences of the Repairs of the Church; demand a Sitting, or Sittings in a pew for himself and family?—Now it is well known that a great number of the pews of the aforesaid Church are LET, and many SOLD to NON-PARISHIONERS, by whom they are locked up! so that when Parishioners go on a Sunday, they must STAND IN THE AISLES, to be gazed at by all the Congregation, notwithstanding they are compelled to pay towards supporting the PARSON, CLERK, &c.

Surely this is not according to ECCLESIASTICAL LAW?—

However if you will be so kind as to investigate the matter and Publish a reply, you will greatly oblige,

Sir,

Yours, &c. &c.

A CHURCHMAN.

October 4, 1831.

MEM.—The Church is the property of those who feed its incumbents and hangers on, from the Bishop to the Sexton. If the Clergy had not been so stuffed, they would never have had the impudence to question this fact.

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—By the letter you addressed to Alderman C. Bolton, in your Portfolio, No. 8, it is evident you have been egregiously imposed upon, by some evil-designing person, which I doubt not will put you more on your guard in future. Neither that individual nor any other Alderman of Hull is addicted to cock-fighting, or dog-fighting as you intimate.

Let us give the devil his due! "Handsome Kitty," depend on it, would rather attend a Bible-Society Meeting, or a Missionary Society Meeting, than a Bull-baiting. To gull or humbug the people he is always ready. At the Anti-catholic Meeting, he raved almost like a maniac, declaring that every dreadful evil, short of setting the Humber in a blaze, would be the consequence of emancipation. How his then dupes must now despise him for his horrible but false predictions on that subject! I do not imagine that he was so foolish as to believe them himself, but he had sense enough to perceive the reforming tendency of that measure, and he dreads every approach to reform.

Like a maggot, he lives on corruption; it is essential to his existence: deprive him of it, and he dies. No wonder then, that he is a violent anti-reformer.

Yours sincerely,

OMICRON.

Friday, 7th October, 1831.

MEM:—Possibly some other Alderman may be the party implicated. Is it Mr. Coulson? they say he is one of the best of the bunch; and I would rather be a cock-fighter than a hypocrite.

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,

The last three numbers of your Portfolio have been printed on such shocking bad paper that it is almost impossible, indeed it is quite impossible, to read a great part of your last number; you probably do it for a saving, but I can assure you it will not be such, for what is the use of you writing your good works if they are so badly printed that no one can read them; hoping you will remedy this in your next number.

I am Sir, your obdt. Servant,

A SUBSCRIBER.

HULL, October 8th, 1831.

MEM:—This comes from a Stationer who does not know the difference between good paper and indifferent printing. I am engaged in his line and have no orders to give.

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—I observe in your Portfolio of this day's publication, that you say Sunday is not the Sabbath; so it is not with the Children of Israel, but remember that is time of old, I now write to inform you, if you make use of such expressions as those, you will soon loose your popularity in this town, for let me talk with who I will, they all feel astonished at the expression, I tell you candidly as a friend, if you do persist in this sort of language and make Sunday your principal day in running your Packets those extra routes to Gainsbro', &c. you will soon have to give up altogether.

If you will go on with claiming the public rights, you will find plenty of supporters. I presume you are a man of jurisprudence, pray can you tell me if the Corporation can legally take Toll of Corn that comes into the town of Hull from the Farmers.

PUBLIC WELFARE.

HULL, October 8th, 1831.

MEM:—I fear no result consequent on truth and its advocacy, does this correspondent prove Sunday to be the seventh day and therefore the Sabbath. If not he proves nothing to the point, "A reply" is not of necessity "an Answer."

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—If you think the following worthy of a place in your work, it is at your pleasure. It is from an old paper, with a little variation.

I am Sir, Yours respectfully,

AMICUS.

"In honour of Kitty Bolton, Esq.
The Prince of Bankrupts, the Architect of Corporation
Fools,

And the Hero of good or bad Intentions,

After seeing all his plans understood

And acted upon,

He retired to his Cottage,

Near the North Pole:

Where he introduced order and sociality

Among the Bears,

And prepared his code of laws for the government
of St. Luke's.

This marble was raised to his memory,

By the Inhabitants of a Lunatic Asylum

In New Harmony."

MEM:—I suppose there is some wit in this—though I confess it is not very apparent to me.

J. A.

THE TOWN AND COUNTY OF THE TOWN OF
KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.

THE CHARTER HOUSE, OR GOD'S HOUSE.

Sir Michael Delapole, Knight, Lord of Wingfield, by his letters patent, dated 1st of March, in the 7th year of Richard the 2nd, and under the authority of a licence from the crown, established an hospital for eighteen poor men and thirteen poor women, feeble or old, in two of his messuages, called La Maison Dieu, in Myton, near Hull, next the priory of the House of Monks of the Carthusian order; founded by him such Hospital, to be called "God's House of Hull," and he constituted the said men and women brethren and sisters thereof, and deputed Sir Richard de Killam, priest, to be master and keeper of the hospital; and ordered that every master after him should have orders of priesthood, be thirty years of age and more, and keep personal residence in the hospital; that he should have an habitation for himself nigh the said house, and order all things for ruling and increasing the possessions of the house, and for the guidance and correction of the brethren and sisters, and have the administration of the goods of the hospital according to the rules therein limited, that he should have for his maintenance £10. sterling per annum; and that he should chaunt or sing in chapel of the house every day, or when absent upon the business of the house should provide, at the expence of the house, another priest to chaunt or sing there. And it was ordained by the letters patent that every one of the poor people should attend to their devotions and prayers, in church every day, and that the master should pay to each of them 40s. a year for living and clothing (viz.) to every one of them 8d. a week, and the residue of the 40s. at the four usual feasts in the year; and that when the master or any of the brethren or sisters should die or be removed from the house, the said Sir Michael Delapole, and his heirs, Lords of the Manor of Myton, should appoint another proper person, and in default of such appointment for one month, the Prior of the Charter House within a fortnight afterwards, or after the lapse of such fortnight the Mayor for the town of Hull within another fortnight, or on his failure for that fortnight the Archdeacon for the East Riding of the church of York, or his official in his absence, should substitute and put in proper persons for that time only; and that the master in every year, when need should be, before any of the most competent persons in the house, to be chosen by all the brethren and sisters from year to year, in the presence of some person appointed by the said Michael Delapole, and his heirs, or the said Prior, Mayor and Archdeacon, in case his heirs should be negligent in making such appointment, should show the state of the house, and by his oath duly account for the pences thereof; and if any thing should remain in the

master's hands at the year's end, above the necessary of the house, and the master, brethren, and sisters thereof, it should be put into the treasury of the house to the common profit of the brethren and sisters, to be applied as good discretion should dictate; and in case the master should be absent fifteen days, not for the business of the house, or should fail in making the said payments to the poor people for three days, after being required so to do, or openly violate the statutes of the house, or commit any grievous sin, (being convicted by the testimony of three or four of the brethren) he should be remanded from his office by the said founder or his heirs, or in default of him or his heirs, by the Prior, Mayor and Archdeacon aforesaid respectively, according to the times limited as aforesaid, and that the same thing should be observed amongst the poor people in any trespass against the ordinances; saving that the Master for the time being should ever have the first place concerning the punishment and removing of the said poor people; and the said Sir Michael Delapole thereby ordered that every Master, brother and sister, on admission should swear duly to observe the said statutes and ordinances. And the said Michael Delapole granted to the said Master, brethren, and sisters, the messuages aforesaid, their habitations as portions, and five other messuages in the town of Kingston-upon-Hull, and four messuages and four oxgangs of laud, four acres of meadow, and ten acres of pasture, in Cottingham, and nine acres of land in Willerby, near Cottingham, of the yearly rental or value of £13. 14s. 4d. to hold to the said master, brethren and sisters, and their successors. And the said Michael Delapole specially reserved to himself and his heirs the power to add to the foundation of ordinances, and to make any new ordinances, so that it should be made for the better guidance of the said house.

By Letters patent, dated 1st Sept., 9th Henry X. Michael Delapole, Earl of Suffolk, Edmund Delapole, Christopher and Robert Dalton, clerks, by licence, for King Henry the Fourth, gave, granted and assigned to the master and poor people of the poor people and hospital called the Maison Dieu, in Myton, near Kingston-upon-Hull, and their successors, eight tofts, three gardens, six oxgangs, fifty-one acres of land, seven acres of meadow, twelve acres of meadow, six acres of wood, and £11. 13s. 2d. rents in Hessle, West-Ella, Myton in Willerby and Franley, to be held to the said master and poor people and their successors, in aid of their better sustentation.

In the year 1506, on the attainder of high treason of Edmund Delapole, son and heir of the said Michael Delapole, his estates, including the lordship or manor of manor, became vested in the crown, and in the 6th year of King Edward the 5th, the manor of Myton, and other manors and estates were granted to the Mayor and Burgesses of Kingston-upon-Hull; and their successors. The Mayor and Burgesses have ever since the grant, as Lords of the Manor of Myton exercising the right of master and poor people to the hospital.

(To be continued.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR.—Personal defects and personal deformities are not legitimate subjects for the pen of satire, because it is pretty evident that a man has nothing to do with his own formation. He comes into the world on compulsion, and cannot therefore be accountable to any one for his uncouth appearance. If he happen to be handsome, so much the better; if ugly, so much the worse; it is his misfortune, and entitles him to pity, rather than contempt. Such are my sentiments, and with this avowal, you will not wonder that I was grieved to see a boyish production which made some noise here six or seven years ago, re-printed in the Portfolio. If the author be still alive, I have no doubt he is heartily ashamed of his former indiscretion, not to call it by a harsher name, though this might safely be done without violating the truth. But we pardon, in a boy, those offences against good manners, which men are never allowed to commit with impunity. His poem contains some tolerable lines, and a great number of absolutely bad ones, so that had it not been for certain sneers at worthy though not perfectly-shaped individuals, it might have gone to the trunk-makers and confectioners, as

“A school boy freak, unworthy praise or blame.”
Your ignorance of the parties libelled, perhaps accounts for its appearance in your work, because I would not willingly believe that you are influenced by vindictive feelings against any, save those who plunder the people, and reap where they have not sown. Against such, casuists admit animosity to be allowed but it should not extend farther. Now, many of the gentlemen named in the poem, are not in public situations, and their characters, of which I know more than you can possibly do, will bear investigation. The censure, you may tell me, is not of your production, and this is undoubtedly true, but you have given it a publicity which it could not otherwise have obtained, and I therefore expect you to make all the atonement in your power, by inserting this corrective. I am not mean enough to ask that as a favor, which your own judgment, when consulted, will lead you to decide is merely an act of justice.

HULL, Monday Morning.

AMICUS.

MEM.—I submit to the correction, and trust I shall never be ashamed to acknowledge myself in error when I really am so. The arguments of this friend are irresistible.

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR.—I think it my duty to turn your attention to a grievance which is very injurious to a certain class

of people in, and connected with this town; it is the prohibition of fires on board of ships in the Hull Docks by a law made by our Dock Company, who themselves opened the Junction Dock with a fire, and are working the Mud-Engine with a fire every day, and who have had a fire on board the Diving-Bell Lighter, even in the month of August; yet by their laws they compel others to remain on ship-board day and night, from week's end to week's end, in the severity of a winter's frost without a fire, nay even without a lighted candle, except it be in a lantern, and should they be caught with a fire, they are immediately summoned up, and fined the sum of three Pounds and costs, without being allowed to speak a word in their own defence. Is this legal? I answer no. But what can they do? Is it of any use to go to law with the Devil when the Council is held in Hell? Yet Mr. Editor, I think that “Public Opinion” may set this grievance right, and once more establish one of the comforts of life on board of ships in the Hull Docks.

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

HULL, SEPT. 26, 1831.

Q. Q.

MEM.—*Impartiality is not the polar star of the Dock Company.* J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

MR. EDITOR,—I am encouraged to write to you from your honest reply to “VERITAS” in your excellent and independent Portfolio. There are at Barton some very glaring irregularities which sadly want exposing and rectifying—relative to the Truck System, Justice Meetings, and Court of Requests.

1st,—I should wish to know where the fines (which are frequently levied) go to? 2nd,—Since LORD WHARFCLIFFE bill against the truck system, how a proprietor of a rope-factory dare carry it on to such an extent, to the great complaint and injury of a great number of hands? 3rd,—Is it equity for Commissioner of the Court of Requests being the defendant to bully, with his brother Commissioners, the plaintiff out of his right, and let the cause remain undecided—which case has taken place,—and the plaintiff has applied in vain!

Now MR. EDITOR if you will please to notice the above your note-case as a caution and warning to the Bartonians, trust ere long you will be furnished with some infamous thing from an abler pen: were I capable of writing properly, I would state to you some facts, but will leave it until my friends send you notice of this. Wishing your usefulness may increase cheerfully subscribe myself,

A LATE RESIDENT OF BARTON.

P. S. Since writing the above, I am informed that there are in Barton several Charities shamefully abused, and poor cheated out of their right.

MEM.—I think we may hope better times for Barton. Much public spirit has been recently manifested by several of its most influential inhabitants, and I trust they will persevere in the good cause of Local Reform. J. A.

Printed and Published by JAMES ACLAND, sole Proprietor
Editor, No. 3, Mytengate, Hull.

THE Hull Portfolio;

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES ACLAND.

"*Bonus nocet quisquis pepercerit malis.*"—CICERO.

HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS BY JAMES ACLAND,
SOLE PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR, NO. 3, MYTONGATE, HULL.

Vol. I.—No. II. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1831.

Twopence.

TO THE PEOPLE OF HULL.

ELLOW COUNTRYMEN.

You live in an eventful era. It devolves upon you to obtain justice for yourselves and to secure the rights and liberties of your children, and their children after them.

After nearly a century and a half of misrule of oppression in the name of the law—and corruption under the authority of charters, the people have roused themselves, and are even now shaking the heavy yoke from their necks, and tearing the fetters from their manacle limbs.

But the reason of the oppressed will not have effected one half so much as the blindness and the ignominy of the oppressors. Those locusts of the State, the lordly Aristocrats have strained the cord so tightly that it has snapped. Those wolves of the Church, the worldly Bishops, have sacrificed Mammon so openly and so shamelessly that Christian consistency must disown the mitre and eject the crook.

You, my friends and future constituents are not regarded in the race of patriotic competition. Had I found you so, I had renounced you—and given you up to your own lechery of Corporate slavery. But you are true to yourselves and shall find me true to you. Do any of your purblind Aldermen doubt your fidelity to the principles for which your ancestors fought, bled, and died? Do they yet resume to think you their bound slaves? Let each peruse the declaration to which thousands of you have attached your signatures, and which thousands more will throng to sign between this and the ensuing Tuesday. I present it to their notice, and he who reads it and can deem you slaves is more fit for a madhouse than a Mansion-House, and ought to wear the molley of the fool over the crown of the Corporator.

COPY OF THE DECLARATION.

TO OUR PATRIOTIC SOVEREIGN, WILLIAM THE FOURTH.

WE, your right loyal subjects, inhabitants of the town and county of Kingston-upon-Hull, and vicinity, respectfully declare,

That living under a representative form of Government, we are entitled to a real representation in the Commons House of Parliament.

That we have for many years, been unconstitutionally deprived of this right.

That the Reform Bill introduced this Session, under the avowed auspices of your Majesty, and your Ministers, is calculated greatly to reduce the extent of the injustice of which we complain.

That the Commons House of Parliament having passed such Reform Bill in regeneration of itself, no earthly power has a right to stand between them and the people, in prevention of an act of tardy but acceptable justice.

That the Lords, in rejection of such Reform Bill have given fatal evidence of the indifference of the higher Classes to the wants and claims of abused and oppressed Millions of your Majesty's affectionate and loyal subjects.

That the Aristocracy is no longer entitled to our estimation or respect, and that the Bishops in abetting a rebellious Oligarchy, have renounced the principles of Christianity, and forfeited all claim on our veneration, confidence, or respect.

That whilst we duly appreciate the real nobility of talent, based on virtue, we feel an utter contempt for those of our hereditary Aristocracy who are enobled by hereditary worth, and we desire to represent to your Majesty, that the longer continuance of such a system must be prejudicial to the state, and derogatory of the National character.

That sorely oppressed as we are by the illegal usurpation of our local Corporate Government, we feel the more acutely any additional pretensions of the aristocracy, whether National or Local, to a power which is not less dangerous than illegal.

On these grounds we implore your Majesty in the name of your faithful people, to continue to your Majesty's Ministers the confidence to which their zeal and sincerity in the preservation of peace and the prevention of anarchy and massacre may entitle them.

The following also lies for Signatures at the same Place.

I do hereby solemnly declare that until the People are represented in Parliament, or the Reform Bill proposed by His Majesty's Ministers passed, I will pay no Taxes or other illegal demands; it being a fundamental principle of a Representative Government that there should be no Taxation without Representation, and the present House of Commons having a majority of its members corruptly, unconstitutionally, and illegally foisted into the assembly where all Taxes originate.

JAMES ACLAND.

This document was agreed to in substance at your late public meeting and unanimously. But it seems that some think they can offer you something better,—for you are to have another meeting on Monday when somebody will have another course to propose to you. May it be a better! More Aristocratic it may be. More diluted it may be. More Whiggish it may be. But these are not times for the sacrifice of a people, for the profit of a party, or for the starvation of the suckling of liberty by the poverty diet of a milk and water principle. As you are men, think and act for yourselves! As you are reasonable beings, do not allow yourselves to be held in leading strings by any gang of confederated politicians. If you do you will assuredly be sold; and on the other hand, if you do not, you will as assuredly be freed, and for ever, from the iron sceptre of a heartless obligarchy,—that obligarchy of which your Corporate lords (that were) are the contemptible tools and obsequious admirers.

It is barely possible that on Monday next even a Whig may prove a Radical.—for a Corporator convenes the meeting! What strange things come to pass in our day! I will yet hope to see the poor buyers get his own, and the Alderman's bell preduced to the proportion of nature and of honesty. They say a pig may swim. Aye! until he saws an orifice in his windpipe and then he may sink; and why not with the Alderman as well as the pig. "Anybody's gutter" is the principle of each; and all that they care about is to fill themselves to repletion, and to sleep themselves into a renewed appetite.

But the Whigs may prove themselves radicals. And if they should---support them. But we shall see. I say so because I mean to be among you and to hear the oracles, and, if need be, to answer them---that is, if they come any of their sleight of hand---if they attempt to gull you---if they would play upon you and treat you as mere puppets.

They are to have their preliminary meeting this day---to cut and dry *their* resolutions. Now if these resolutions be not honest ones, take care you do not make them *your's*.

Having thus far provided for your security, and having by this fair notice informed them that I shall be awake ---I think there is some probability that they will act honestly (perforce) and prudently (perchance.)

Meanwhile I shall travel to Barton by Public Opinion ---to beat the regular blackguards, who now attempt to bully and beat you into a proper deference to the views and interests of the Corporate Monopolists.

Your's ever,

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—The following Questions and Answers tend to show what a Curse the Aristocracy have been and are to

this Nation.—I mean as a body, for there are many noble exceptions. I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

A FRIEND OF THE PEOPLE.

- Q. Why did England go to war with France, when our neighbours were merely rescuing themselves from the fangs of the Bourbons, Priests, and Aristocrats?
- A. Because our Aristocrats thought a Reform in France would be followed by one in England to avoid which, they would rather plunge the Nation into misery and debt.
- Q. Why is the property of the established Churches unequally distributed, that the idle Clergy derive nearly all the emolument, and the working Clergy are very inadequately remunerated?
- A. Because it suits the Aristocracy to have the connections provided for out of the Church property; although such unprincipled conduct is seen through, and has cost the Church respectability and will eventually be its destruction.
- Q. Why is there such a heavy duty on the importation of foreign Corn: and why is not Corn from Canada and other parts of the British Empire admitted duty free?
- A. Because a more free Importation would reduce the income of the Aristocracy; and therefore the poor must continue to starve, and the Commerce of the country remain damped.
- Q. Why is the duty on East India Sugar higher than on West India Sugar, as both the East & West Indies are portions of the British Empire?
- A. Because the Aristocracy have large possessions in the West, and none in the East Indies.
- Q. Why are the Civil departments in the State conducted, and the Salaries attached to them extravagant?
- A. Because they are filled by the Aristocracy.
- Q. Why is there so much discontent in the Colonies?
- A. Because all lucrative situations in them are given to Aristocrats who tyrannize over and oppress the inhabitants.
- Q. Why are our common Soldiers and Sailors deemed the best in the world; and our Officers, with few exceptions, considered nearly the worst?
- A. Because the first are taken from the People, the latter from the Aristocracy.
- Q. Why is the Pension list so large?
- A. Because it is one of the mediums through which the Aristocracy plunder the public.
- Q. Do not the lower Classes get something out of the National Purse?
- A. Yes!—They are compelled to serve in the Army and Navy for less pay than they were entitled to before they were dragged from their families

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—Acting upon the assertion you made in your publication of the 5th inst. as to the insertion of a counter statement, and also upon the candour and march after truth so conspicuously displayed in former numbers, I now take up my pen to give a public contradiction to as bare-faced a falsehood as ever appeared in print:—I allude to the letter inserted in the "Portfolio" of last Wednesday, which contained a base and luminous attack upon the late Mrs. Terry and her charitable daughter, Miss T.

The numerous acts of kindness which this family have showered upon the very needy inhabitants of the pottery will never be forgotten by those relieved.—Alike regardless of health, cost, or bodily comfort, they have conveyed assistance to the hungry, poor and afflicted of all ages. How ungrateful then is he as a member of society, for these acts of kindness towards himself, who merely for the sake of private spleen, or for the purpose of creating a bad feeling in the minds of the lower order, would thus strike a dagger at both living and dead;—would thus coward-like calumniate those whose actions it were well if he himself would copy. True Sir, is it, that Ma. Cornelius Kay bought a piece of ground, on which he built a Jetty,—true that he had manure lead past Mrs. T.'s residence,—true that Mrs. T. preferred an indictment against Mr. Kay for a nuisance,—true that she gained her action,—true that it was laid under a heavy penalty,—FALSE that it was love of power and pride that was the cause of her suing so,—false that she gained her cause owing to the undue influence of her Son,—false that Mr. K.'s edges were his accusers, and false that Avison Terry, Esq. was at that time one of the Aldermen.—We could, Sir, look at the *motive*, not the action only: Mr. Kay used to allow his manure to remain on the Jetty for months, and the stench arising from it was in so populous (although certainly not so populous as at the present day,) a neighbourhood, liable to disease, and at events was highly injurious to health. This being the case, I contend it only added to the many acts of kindness already conferred, in her taking up the cause of the persecuted poor. Allow me to ask what more cowardly than an attack upon the dead? Were the courts of Law open, if Mr. Kay thought himself aggrieved,—if he fancied there was a conspiracy against him,—if he had the least idea he had, not had justice done him, why not manfully brave the storm? Why not prosecute with the "utmost rigour of the law?" Why did he resort to such mean, low, and despicable measures as the insulting of the Family? Why did he by every means in his power, to hurt the feelings of the head of that family? for no other reason than, that he was unable to make his conduct at all justifiable, as he was unable to prove, it was not a nuisance.—Ready he Mr. K. has inflicted a wound which had been to heal, but vulture like, he has watched his oppor-

tuity, has soon as he conveniently could after the late affliction in the family, he recommences the attack.—I think Mr. Editor, that had you known the real circumstances of this case, you would not have lent yourself to the design of Mr. Kay. There is now another point remaining for contradiction,—the "constant reader of your Portfolio" insinuates that Miss T. has established the Infant Schools for the purpose of gain. The falsity of such an hint is however so manifestly apparent to all those who take the trouble to look at all into the matter, that I really am at a loss to decide whether or not it is worthy of notice; but as the Editor of the Portfolio says, "that silence nods assent." I suppose I must proceed that there are two teachers receiving a salary from Miss T. She also finds books, slates, furniture, stationary and fires, amounting to a considerable sum; in addition to that allowed by the teachers, The amount Miss T. receives from the whole school according to your correspondent, amounts only to 12s. 6d. !!! out of which, she has to pay the above. Perhaps the "ignoramus" can inform me, how much the teachers receive? how much Miss T. gains every week? how much the etceteras amount to? the public asks who is the author of the letter to you, so vilely aspersing this lady's character? I answer, I "wish it to come to the knowledge of the public," that it is Mr. Kay himself, who is either the author, or the employer of some person to do it. What then will the public think of him? they will despise him, I tax him with it, and defy him to bring any satisfactory, or respectable proof to the contrary. Nothing now remains for me but to request you to insert this in your next Portfolio, and oblige

Your obedient servant.

B. S. H.

MEM.—B. S. H. asks my charge for twenty-five copies of this letter. I have left such number at my office for him—free of charge—on his signing the same initials, as proof of his identity.

J. A.

A COPY OF THE CHARTER GRANTED BY KING CHARLES THE SECOND TO THE TOWN OF HULL, DATED THIRD OF DECEMBER, ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY ONE.

(Continued from page 69.)

AND FURTHERMORE, we will by these presents for us our heirs and successors, we grant to the aforesaid Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid for the time being, or the greater part of them from time to time and at all times hereafter have and shall have full power and authority yearly and every year, upon the next day following after the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel, themselves or the greater part of to assemble in the Guildhall of the Town or Borough aforesaid, according to the discretions of them to be limited and assigned and there to continue until they or the greater part

of them then there assembled shall chuse and name one of the Aldermen of the Town or Borough aforesaid to be Mayor of the said Town or Borough for the year following, according to the ancient custom in the said Town or Borough heretofore used in chusing and naming and that they be able and may there chuse and name before they do depart from thence one of the Aldermen of the Town or Borough aforesaid who shall be Mayor of the Town or Borough aforesaid for one whole year then next following and that he after that so as is aforesaid shall be elected and named the Mayor of the Town or Borough aforesaid and County of the same before he be admitted to the execution of that Office a corporal oath upon the Holy Gospel of God yearly on the day of Saint Luke then next following the election and nomination aforesaid before the last Mayor predecessor for the time being and in his absence before the Aldermen of the Town or Borough aforesaid for the time being or any one or more of them in the presence of such Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid as shall be there present in the Guildhall of the Town or Borough aforesaid or in any other convenient place within the Town or Borough aforesaid according to their discretions limited shall take to execute that Office well, and faithfully, and rightfully, in all things touching that Office, and to which the Mayor for the time being, and in his absence to the aforesaid Alderman of the Town or Borough aforesaid for the time being, and to any one or more of them, full power and authority to give and administer such like oath from time to time in form aforesaid, we do give and grant by these presents, and that after he has taken such oath he shall take upon him the office of Mayor of the Town or Borough aforesaid, until and upon the next day following after the feast of St. Michael the Arch-angel then next following, and further until another of the aforesaid Aldermen of the Town, or Borough aforesaid, in due manner and form to the Mayor of the Town, or Borough aforesaid, shall be elected, made, or sworn, he ought, shall be able, and may execute. And further, we will and by these presents, for us and our Heirs do grant to the aforesaid Mayor, and the Burgesses of the Town aforesaid, and to their successors, that the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid, and their successors, for the time being, from time to time, in perpetual future times, power and authority, may have and shall have yearly, and every year, on the next day following, after the feast of St. Michael the Arch-angel themselves, or the greater part of them to assemble in the Guild Hall of the Town or Borough aforesaid, or any other convenient place within the said Town or Borough according to their discretions limited, and there to continue until that they so as aforesaid, assembled shall have chosen and named one of the Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid, who shall be Sheriff of the said Town or Borough and County of the same for the year following, in the form following according to the ancient custom in the same Town or Borough, heretofore used of chu-

sing and naming, and they shall be able and may before they depart from thence, to chuse and name one of the Burgesses of the same Town or Borough, who from thence shall be Sheriff of the said Town or Borough and County of the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull, for one whole year, then next following; and that after that so as is aforesaid he shall be elected and named to the said Town or Borough and County of the same Town or Borough, before he be admitted to execute that office a corporal Oath upon the Holy Evangelists of God yearly on the day of St. Luke then next following, before the Mayor of the Town or Borough aforesaid for the time being, and in the absence of the said Mayor before the Aldermen of that Town or Borough aforesaid, for the time being, or any one or more of them, in the presence of such Burgesses of the said Town or Borough for the time being, who shall then be present in the Guild-Hall of the Town or Borough aforesaid, or in any convenient place in the Town or Borough aforesaid, to be committed and assigned according to their discretion that office of Sheriff of the said Town or Borough and County of the Town or Borough aforesaid, he shall take to execute rightly, well and faithfully in all things touching that office, and to which the Mayor for the time being, and in his absence to the aforesaid Aldermen of the Town or Borough aforesaid, or to any one or more of them full power and authority to administer such Oath, from time to time in form aforesaid we do give and grant by these presents; and that after such Oaths for the taking the office of Sheriffs of the said Town or Borough, and County of the said Town or Borough aforesaid, until the next following and the aforesaid Feast of St. Michael the Arch-angel the next following, he doth undertake and further until another of the aforesaid Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid, in due manner and form to the Sheriff of the said Town or Borough and County of the said Town or Borough aforesaid, shall be elected, made, and chosen, he ought, and shall be able, and may execute.

(To be continued.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—As you are an enemy to abuses of a public nature, I wish you would be so kind as to look in the many connected with the Charter House. To pay would bear advancing six shillings per week, which would then make it twelve; but, unfortunately, Mr. Basket has the money in his hands, which he speculates with, and as such will not hear of it being advanced if you would look into it it would be esteemed a great kindness.

October, 13, 1831.

A RESIDENT.

MEM :—I am looking into this matter, and hope to wiser shortly.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

Qui non velat peccare cum possit jubet.

SIR,—I had not presumed to present a paragraph of mine for insertion in your deservedly popular paper, if a disgraceful occurrence, emanating from a Corporation Jackall, constituting one of the Constabulary fraternity, had not passed before my sight; and which, in my opinion, deserves public reprehension. However, I lay before your potent and just tribunal (which has already shaken by the thunder of its Bills of Accusation, Denunciations, Honest Procedure and Enforcement of Ancient Charter, Right, *et cetera*, the fabric of the Kingston tyranny) the transaction as it occurred.

A person, residing in the Pottery, of York Castle notoriety, professing himself a member of an Oxford University, considering himself a gentleman, boasting of £300 per annum, annuity, with his wife, and one of the constables, or officers of justice for that ward, was, by one of those casualties, which often blend rogues with honest men, introduced to a highly respectable military gentleman, residing on half-pay, in a domicile, contiguous to Mr. —'s. Frequent salutations and conversations led to more intimate acquaintance, as is generally the case, under a similarity of circumstances, which, in result, was the borrowing of various brewing utensils and a considerable quantity of fishing-tackle, with which, my friend, in younger days, had dealt destruction on the scale-clad tribe, in the various counties in which his regiment, in the course of military routine, was quartered. The friendship increased, and my unsuspecting friend looked upon the constable to be a man of principle. This precious luminary of Oxford, (but why disgrace this truly noble seat of learning) quickly contrived to borrow several sums of money, under various pretexts, (for villany invariably assumes a hue concomitant with its purposes) always contriving on a fresh application, and as a palliative for gone-by promises, a statement, plausibly delineating the miscarriage of his money letters, or not being able to get his bills cashed here, &c. ending his premeditated fraud with "My dear captain! I will send my servant up with the whole, to-morrow or next day." A circumstance (the detecting of a gross falsehood) occurred in a few days after the last sum was borrowed, which led my friend to form a different opinion of Mr. —'s principles to that he had unhesitatingly cherished. Of course, a polite note was sent, requesting the money and other articles, (amongst which was a piece of furniture so necessary to a military man, answering the double purpose of sofa and portable bed) borrowed. Another promise was the result. The time passed, neither constable, money nor goods appearing. A second note was sent, demanding immediate payment and restoration. An *insulting* answer was returned, refusing payment, and enquiring where the *witnesses* were, to prove the debt. Aroused by such insolence and turpitude, my friend immediately resolved on conveying it to the Court of Requests, it being a sum within its cognizance. Luckily, three of his daughters could bear testimony to the various amounts borrowed,

if the court required further evidence than the oath of a man of honour, and a gentleman, who had served for years under his Majesty's Commission. Thither he repaired at the appointed time, but no Mr. — answered personally the requestal summons; but a note, sent by him, to some of the Commissioners or Clerk of the Court, was read, offering to pay the amount at 2s. per week. This last act of rascality and impudence, the Commissioners tolerated, with this expression to my friend, 'Mr. — has often been here, sir, and this is the way he pays his debts.' Nothing further can be done, sir. Such was the decision of the rulers of a Court of Justice, after the villain had insulted them by non-appearance, conformable to law—boasting of £300 a year, and a peace officer in the bargain. He evaded justice in all its shades and shapes, by paying no more per week than the miserable pittance generally wrung from the hard working mechanic. But the judges legalized it in such a way, in order that Phillips' fees and their own underlings might be augmented, in direct opposition to reason and justice.

It has been justly said, virtue assimilates not with vice, nor public fraud and long continued, unblushing error with common decency and shame. In proof of which, I introduce to paper, those delegates of justice, and beg to enquire into this as well as countless other cases, how far their comportment was compatible with the legal dispensation of equity, and how close its relative position stands with their Oath of Office, which is as follows:

"I do swear that I will faithfully, impartially, and honestly, according to the best of my judgment, hear and determine such matters and things, as shall be brought before me, by virtue of an Act of Parliament, for the more *easy* and *speedy* recovery of small debts, within the Town and County of the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull, without *favour, affection or prejudice* to either party."

Ardua via virtutis.—Yet how little does this junta of imbecilities, in the adjudication of cause and right, by the intolerance of their unprecedented decisions; endeavour to mingle with their principles and actions the smallest particle of moral worth and justice. Can we contemplate the present perversion and transformation of the wise and unvisited principles of each institution and law founded by our ancestors, without feeling in our breasts, the overpowering workings of indignation, which terminate in exposure and disgust? Such is the court of equity. What impiety, perversion and turpitude, constitute the sound!—And such is the petty rascal, employed by our Corporate rulers, to detect and bring to condign punishment, villany in others not half so base as his own. Can there be a man within the bounds of your paper's circulation, but will feel the glow of detestation and indignation kindle afresh in his bosom, during a perusal of this statement of facts, and bid him by instinct, deprecate such conduct, and shun so execrable a biped? Had he confessed himself a *sizer* of St. Giles', or a pandering graduate of the Covent Garden (old mother H—s) Establishment, and acted thus, we should not have been surprised, but, boasting of having had the classic wreath of Oxford

encircled round his brow, and assuming the airs of a gentleman, (but *asperius nihil est humili cum surgit*) the magnitude of the crime is increased tenfold, and merits public condemnation and punishment.

Wishing you every good wish in your laudable exertions for the Public good, I subscribe myself,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant.

THRASYBU IUS.

P. S. Since writing the above, Mr.—— has quitted the Pottery, for Sculcoates, leaving in his late ward, innumerable accounts unpaid.—Justice will overtake the delinquent at last, although he seems to slumber at present in security.

HULL, October 13th, 1831.

MEM:—*I want the name, and the names of the then sitting Commissioners.* J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—Whoever has been acquainted with Hull a few years, must acknowledge, with much pleasure, the great improvement which have taken place in that once disagreeable and dirty end of the Town, called the Pottery; and as a friend of the Poor, I was most grateful when I first learnt, that an opportunity was to be afforded those who had laboured hard during the week, to have the privilege of going to Church without having so far to trudge into the Town—I was at the time, one amongst a great number, who felt greatly disgusted, at the selfish and illiberal conduct exhibited, to induce our very respected and benevolent Vicar, to give up his claim to the recommendation of an Incumbent to his Church-fee, for the purpose of placing there a certain calculating Knight of the Surplus, who whatever may be his qualification in other respects, knows full well, how to appreciate pounds, shillings and pence.

Now Sir, as you are a vastly cunning man, and have found that certain worshipful Sirs, worship Champaign and Venison more than Justice and impartiality, and as you have already hoisted the tricoloured standard, as a declaration of war against those, who are snugly cheating the Public out of the loaves and fishes, I have a simple question to ask you. Pray was it not intended by the grant of government, of a sum of money towards the erection of St. James' Church at the Pottery, that there should be Three Hundred free sittings?—If so, really those church Law Masters, must possess an uncommon thrifty knowledge. I enquire of you, because report says, that this is the present law of St. James' Church. When I first heard of it, I thought with a certain deceased Lord. Now, "really this is too bad" but I am informed, that it is for no other earthly cause, than to make poor people more independent; that it is not at all the value of the Three Hundred Shillings, and although, some sceptical and ill-natured folks disregard the Knight of St. James' doctrine in this respect, I wish to ask you, as the oracle of "PUBLIC OPINION," if my Lord Archbishop of York, can sanction the taking out of the pockets of such Three Hundred poor, as are desirous of worshipping God, the value of two pounds weight of mutton annually? but this is not all, I am puzzled about the Church explanation of the word Independence; for although it may be purchased for three groats per annum, I find these Three Hundred Independent people have been latterly deprived of the privilege, of voting with the other seat holders, for this Amen Man, or Clerk; they got somewhat refractory on the subject, but after some hole and corner meetings, and one in particular, at the corner of Lester Street, where no doubt,

there would be some elegant specimens of eloquence, the free sitting people, who pay One Shilling per year to be independent, were appeased by the Knight's promise, that if they would enjoy their independence quietly, they should have the elective franchise at a future opportunity. Now to be serious, there appears so much humbug in this—something so sordid, so mercenary, and avaricious—something so unlike the benevolence of christian charity of religion, something that savours so much of worldly doings, that we need not be surprised, that the members of the Church, should be amongst the greatest enemies of reform in Parliament, knowing that the day of examination must then come, and dreading the scrutiny. No wonder that the Bishops oppose their King, and his people when we see the sacred temple converted into a Mart of traffic and speculation, it is cruel and monstrous, to oppress the poor, and take from their hard earnings the shilling that ought to procure the necessaries of life. What! are their deprivations not already sufficient, and their burthens not yet heavy enough, but that those whose sacred duty it is by Divine command, to administer to them the balm of happiness and comfort, are to be permitted to use extortion under the mask of Independence? I must apologize for this long letter, but I think it a subject worth some notice.

I am, yours respectfully,

STEPHEN.

HULL, OCT. 11th, 1831.

MEM:—*The Bishops have settled this affair and many such, last week. The sentence of divorce between Church and state is about to be pronounced.* J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—The family of the Bamfords alluded to in your Portfolio No. 10. were not only patronized by the Worshipful Mayor and Alderman, but also by the late Robert Corlass, Wine and Spirit Dealer, (an intimate friend of Alderman Coulsons) who was cousin to the late Robert Bamford, Mace-Bearer, and his brother Charles Bamford, now a partner with Robert Corlass the son of the said Robert Corlass deceased, the mother of the said Robert Bamford, and Charles Bamford was placed through the same influence in Listers Hospital, where he continued till her death, and which is another instance of the partial performance of the trusts of a public charity.

INQUISITOR.

MEM:—*Where there are rats, they generally exist in swarms; and there are never any of the family who nauseate the nice little pickings which make the coats so smooth and sleeky.* J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—My house being on the west side of Parliament street, the back part thereof overlooks a yard belonging to the Charity-Hall, at a corner of the said yard there is a tub, in which the paupers when they have more than they can eat, throw large crusts of bread, this tub appears to be half full of milk and bread, and is sold to feed pigs, this is a most shameful waste of the poor rates.

JUSTITIA.

MEM:—*If this be correct as I fear it is, it proves first, that the poor are not starved; secondly, that they are not provided for by the Corporators; and thirdly that some of them have more than they can eat, and throw it away, which ought not to be, and which I have no doubt will be remedied forthwith.* J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,

One would almost think the leading principle of the Corporate bodies of this Town, judging from their actions, was "that the end sanctifies the means" and that the proverb, "you cannot touch pitch without being defiled" has a more extensive application than the opinions of men have hitherto conceded to it, exemplified as it is in the numerous acts of injustice perpetrated by corporators in their individual capacity.

For many years, extending beyond the memory of the oldest inhabitant of Hull, a free and uninterrupted foot path has existed, leading from the Spring bank to the Lane called Pest-House-Lane, communicating with the Anlaby Road, and which a short time ago was blocked up. The advantages of this lost path were manifold:—First as a pleasant, convenient, and near road from the greater part of Sculcoates to that delightful summer retreat the Botanic Garden:—also as affording a short communication with that extensive district the Pottery:—considering also, the very fine rural walks we have in the environs of Hull of great importance, as being conducive to the health and enjoyment of the labouring part of the population, who were often tempted in their evening stroll by such a walk to inhale the pure breath of heaven, shunning the clouds of dust, smoke, &c. which of necessity pervades so dense a population.

"The worm will turn when trod upon"

Let it not be a matter of surprise then, that the humble Mechanic like myself should feel that in this deprivation I have lost a right, sanctified by usage and guaranteed by time.—Let it not be supposed that if more able pens lie idle, mine must not be used:—that, though uneducated, poor, and friendless, the beggar's privilege—"complaint" must not be heard!—long, much too long have the people of this Town been ruled and ridden by the Corporate power and faction. Evil upon evil—robbery upon robbery—have been inflicted and committed under the mask and guise of official duty and corporate influence.—Who then, be it asked, have taken to themselves authority to rob alike both rich and poor—to perpetrate this wrong?—what corporate monster? what limb of power?—what

Man decked in a little brief authority;—

deems this poor Right too much—longer to be enjoyed?—Will not the announcement that the Corporation of the Trinity House, and the present Mayor of Hull are the owners of the Land through which such path-way leads give the required solution?

W. H. J.

FOUNDRY, SCULCOATES.

MEM:—*Is this pathway still close? If so, I know a way of throwing it open.*

J. A.

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—I was much gratified by seeing in No. 9. of your excellent paper, an enquiry made by "A Burgess," respecting the legality of a charge of £1. 9s. made on the admission of any one to the Freedom of the Town, who were entitled to it by birth or servitude. I anxiously waited some further notice of the subject, and must confess that the P. S. of the "Lawyers" letter in No. 10. does not satisfy me. Will that gentleman be kind enough to inform me, which document, or what part of the transaction requires a 20s. stamp? the Burgess' oath I brought away with me, is nothing but a bit of common paper and print, and I certainly saw nothing bearing a stamp when I PASSED AUSTER; on leaving the room, a man in live-

ry with a large fiery excrescence on his face, was ready in waiting to dun me for a shilling, which I also paid. I am perfectly open to correction if in error, but I am very much inclined to think, that the whole sum paid was a gross imposition to that amount. Worse than this, I believe they have caused me to take a false oath, or which is the same thing, have imposed one upon me, the conditions of which, it is impossible I should fulfil. The clause to which I allude, runs thus: "And if you know any man that labours against the Weal and the Worship* of this Town, you shall warn the Mayor, Alderman of the Ward, or Sheriff for the time being". Now it is notorious, that there is not an Alderman resident in the Town, much less one in each ward, neither is there a resident Mayor or Sheriff; and I should wish to know, whether any one of them is eligible either to be elected, or to serve, who is, or should after election become a "bona fide" non-resident? These matters are worth enquiring into, and I beg to tender you my most sincere thanks for having given us a medium, through which we may make our sentiments known.

Yours, Obediently,

"ANOTHER BURGESS."

* What does this Word mean?

MEM:—*It is all of a piece. Robbery! robbery!! robbery!!!*

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR.—About five or six years ago, when the Dock Company, not satisfied with charging Dock Dues on ships not using the Docks, but discharging in the public River Hull (which by the bye they have never yet improved, although they are bound to do so) attempted to increase their Dues on shipping, and levy a new tax on all goods imported, in which, of course, they were assisted by our other two virtuous Corporations, many of the Inhabitants thought it desirable to resist any further encroachments. The consequence was, an opposition was made to this new scheme of robbery before the sanction of the Legislature could be obtained and the Dock Company were prevented from getting another Act of Parliament. During the struggle, it transpired before a Committee of the House of Commons, that the Dock Company had erected Buildings on the Old Town Wall, which was a misapplication of the Crown Land, which was given to them for the express purpose of making a Dock.

Government immediately wrote down to our Collector of Customs to ascertain the fact, and this circumstance led to the formation of the Junction Dock, the Dock Company becoming alarmed at the inclination evinced at the Head Quarters to investigate their conduct.

As the Collector is acquainted with the sentiments of Government, I think he will consider it is duty to represent, that part of the interdicted ground is again built upon.

I am, Sir, your humble servant,

J. L. W.

MEM:—*And if the Collector of the Customs does not discharge his duty; it will devolve upon somebody else.*

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

Sir,—I do not possess much anxiety as to your opinion of my present letter: it is sufficient for me to possess a firm conviction of the truth of the sentiments I wish to impress upon you. With this conviction, and with the assurance to you, that I possess none other than friendly feelings towards you, I leave it.

I have no wish to assume a dictatorial tone, but merely to embody the opinions of many of your staunch friends, viz that to interfere with religious observances in the way you are doing respecting the Sabbath, cannot fail to injure you. I am not aware what are your religious tenets, nor do I care; but the course you are pursuing would lead me to suppose you advocate the observance of religious duties on the 7th, instead of the 1st day of the week, because it is the day on which God rested from his labours, and commanded to be kept holy. This leaves you open to the charge, that either you wish to beguile the people into the opinion, that they commit no sin by breaking the Christian Sabbath, and rule them by Jewish observances altogether, or that there is a strong line of demarcation between your Political LIBERALITY and Religious opinion. Besides you have only raised this quibble, to shelter your own deeds. Why run two packets on Sunday? because it is a day of rest, and the lower orders are at liberty, which liberty you turn into money (I do not say profit). You would have done the same on any other leisure day, be it Jewish or Christian Sabbath.

There are quite enough abuses in the Church of England to attack without offending the religious scruples of the churchmen and dissenters too, as well as all men who wish for a well ordered state of society. This course will and must operate to your disadvantage, both in a pecuniary means and in reducing you in public estimation. You write for both Jew and Gentile; leave them to battle for themselves.

It has been intimated that you do lawyer Johnson too much honour, in even condescending to ridicule him so often, he never was a LEADER of the Whigs. No adopted proposition ever emanated from him. He has been more like the kettle to the dogs' tail, of more noise than utility. Peace to his manes --he'll prove no Phoenix.

NEMO.

MEM:—It is remarkable that many as are they who censure me for contending that “the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord our God”—there is not one who attempts to prove that I am wrong either in fact or in argument. If I am right why am I to fear reproach—why to think incorrectly to please others?

But how originated this question? The Corporate Charter steam packet had been running on Sundays for many years—for the accommodation and pleasure of the rich. The Public Opinion steam packet pursued the same course on the two successive Sundays for the accommodation and pleasure of the industrious mechanic. The parsons immediately opened their great guns upon me—called me a Sabbath breaker, and in their Christian mercy sent me and my patrons ad supporters to an eternity of hell flames,

Thereupon I reminded them that until they kept the Sabbath of God holy, they were ill justified in condemning me as a Sabbath breaker—and told them that Saturday and not Sunday was that Sabbath. This is the long and the short of the matter: And for this I am to be called a Jew and suspected for an Infidel, if not an Atheist!!!

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORT FOLIO.

The members of a political community may, not improperly, be divided into three classes, those who judge for themselves; those who judge for others and themselves; and those who allow others to judge for them.—To the former of these I hope you will allow me to belong—I therefore remain unconvinced by the observations on your Correspondents Letters on the subject of the Butcher's Bill—He who trusts another beyond the time the Law allows him to recover, deserves to lose it for his culpable neglect---That this man had his own views and interest to answer at the time, I have no doubt.---As to the Alderman being a Magistrate, concerns not the question, simply because he cannot adjudicate in such a case---if there be any thing objectional in the Law, it is the power which it gives the CREDITOR of vindictive persecution, and puts the liberty of one man at the disposal of the malice of another; why therefore you should have listened to this man's cry for help, can only be answered I conceive, by attributing it to an overweening zeal to vilify the Body by an attack on One of it's individual Members, on a subject wholly and altogether devoid of Public interest.---Be assured I am not advocating the Cause of this “Certain Alderman” for I not only do not know him, but I do not know any of the bunch. I know them only by their Public Acts.---It is on the broad open ground of legitimate attack. I support you, and if you deviate from that path, I again forewarn you. that you will lose your Way.---

I remarked in my former Letter to you, that the Career you had commenced required GREAT JUDGMENT, as well as perseverance, and of this I am more and more convinced from the injudicious Conduct (to use the mildest term) of hoisting the *Tri-coloured Flag as the Standard of Public Opinion*—There was a time and it may come again, when it would have been torn from its station if flying in proud defiance upon the Waters of the Humber; I suppose you know full well, that it is the dreadful Colour which always was, and always will be, in the Countries that are now adopting it, a signal for Revolt, Plunder, Massacre, Treason and Blood.---the Colour which our immortal Nelson swept off the Seas, and Wellington trampled under foot on Shore.---Recollect Sir, that we have a *Sailor King*, and that you are surrounded by many a brave British far, and men that still glory in the name of Britons.---Would it not have shewn more laudable regard to the Cause you are advocating if you had used that Ensign which “more than a thousand years has braved the Battle and the Breeze”?

I am Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,
MENTOR.

MEM:—I believe I have acted correctly in Leonard's business. To the best of my knowledge I never saw that individual, and I have had no motive in taking up the matter, other than a love of justice.---But my MENTOR agreed that he who is good-naturally credulous in the honesty of an Alderman, DESERVES to be robbed!---Be it so or not, this is the position of his Worship's advocate, and I will not call it in question, when the Alderman will undertake to waive the plea which the Statute of Limitation affords him; I think I may guarantee him the opinion of a jury on the question of his liability for the amount claimed.---If he refuse this offer can he be an honest man? As to my Flag I think Mentor somewhat invidious and a little Tory-ish.---I fly an ensign on board my Packets, it is tricoloured and I never saw one that was not.---Did Mentor?---If the French fought against Nelson under binding of Blue, White, and Red; Nelson also fought the French under the same colors.---Cannot Mentor pick larger holes in my coat than these?---Then is his censure praise.

ERRATUM.—In the last number of my publication—page 75—column 1—line 8, for “bundle” read bauble.

Printed and Published by JAMES ACLAND, sole Proprietor and Editor, No. 3, Mytongate Hall.

THE Hull Portfolio;

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES ACLAND.

"Bonis nocet quisquis pepercit malis."—CICERO.
HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY BY JAMES ACLAND, SOLE PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR, NO. 16, BOWL-ALLEY-LANE, HULL.

Vol. 1.—No. 12.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1831.

Twopence.

TO THE PEOPLE OF HULL.

"GOOD MEN, AND TRUE."—The past week has been prolific in occurrences on which it is necessary I should offer you a few observations. But before I do so, permit me to remind you that on Tuesday week about 5000 of you assembled, in public meeting, and resolved to address our Sovereign on the present alarming state of the Country. A manly declaration of your rights and denunciation of your wrongs was determined upon, and had received the signatures of about 3000 individuals—when the Whigs of your town thought proper to get up a requisition to the Mayor for another public Meeting for the same purpose. Why? Was it necessary? If so, wherefore and on what account necessary? If they had no reasonable objection to the address, why not sign it? If they had any reasonable objection to such address, why, at their own public meeting, did they propose one which in principle and sentiment is its counterpart? The solution of these questions is, by no means, a matter of difficulty. The Whig must be cock of the walk; he must originate even Whig measures—for no proceeding can have his Whiggish approbation unless emanating from his own body. The Whig is, as you will hence conclude, a peculiarly jealous politician. If he be not the Alpha and Omega—the first and the last—the contriver and executor of the thing done, it must abide his anger and expect his deprecation. The question is not "what has been done?" but, "by whom was it done?" He tests not the coin by its intrinsic value but by its extrinsic mark. He asks not whether it be pure gold, but from what mint it was issued; and if the gold coin be not of Whiggish manufacture, he estimates it of no higher value than a brass button. Just so it was with respect to the proceedings of the first public meeting, which, originating with a real reformer, of no party, could not be deemed by the Whigs at all worthy their appreciation, approval, or even consideration. Therefore the necessity of two meetings for one purpose—therefore the necessity of two addresses to the King of the same essence and of similar language and style.

It is not to be questioned that "Union is Strength." Even the Whigs will admit the accuracy of this position—but then the "Union" they would have, must be such only as will give "Strength" to their party; such a "Union" as Whigs may arrange in order to such "Strength" as may increase the power of their faction. They charge ME, forsooth, with creating a division! What! was it I then who convened a second meeting? Was it I who distracted the Town with a second address to the Sovereign? OR, was it not the Whigs? And can they satisfactorily explain why they held aloof from the first meeting—or why reject the first address—or why, when they determined on a second meeting, they omitted such precautionary measure as might have secured the unanimity they pretend to have desired? If they can, I will acquit them of having sought to divide and distract in order that they might govern and control, the people. But it would have been an act of too great condescension to consult with a mere Radical on the means of securing unanimity at a Whig meeting in favour of Whig resolutions. It was not for me to ask such act of condescension; and they think it was not for them to proffer such courtesy. They therefore took their course—and I mine. Yet they prate of the necessity of Unanimity! The Whigs were always great talkers—but the day has gone by, when words passed current for acts and when the disposition was assumed on the pledges and promises that were made.

I now come to the business of the second meeting. The Whigs got up a requisition. The Mayor called the meeting. The Whigs selected their Chairman. The Whigs proposed and seconded their first resolution of an address to the Sovereign—having previously arranged that their second resolution should secure a laudatory address to the Whig ministers. What need then, was there, for chaunting the praises of the Ministry in the address to the Sovereign? There could be none; but because that Ministry has a Whig Premier, and because this meeting was of Whig convention, these gentlemen would not let slip a single opportunity of proclaiming to the people, "What wonderful patriots we Whigs are!" It may however be asked what

objection I could possibly have to the praises of the Whig Minister. In the first place, if such were the real objects of the meeting it ought to have been called at the George, or elsewhere, and the assembly should have taken place in a room just large enough to accommodate the Whigs, and only the Whigs—whereas the meeting in question was of the people in the open air, and of course under the influence of popular feeling, opinion and judgment. In the next place I desire to be informed whether mere words unsupported by acts be deserving of public appreciation; and, if not, I demand wherefore is it that Earl Grey is to be bespattered with Whig praises at a public meeting? Had he the power with the King at his right hand, and with the People at his back, to carry the Reform Bill? If he had, why is it yet in embryo? Why, after its rejection by the Lords must the Bill be altered? Why not the constitution of the House of Lords itself? And if Earl Grey be trifling with the national anxiety and paltering with the commercial and trading welfare of the Country in order to protect the veins of the Aristocrats from contamination by plebeian blood, are the people, looking to his repeated pledges that he would stand or fall with the Bill, to vote him worthy of all praise and entitled to National confidence? I felt otherwise; and although until the reading of the Whig address to His Majesty I had preconceived neither motion nor amendment, as soon as I saw the trickery of the measure I pencilled such alteration in the address agreed upon at the first Public Meeting as the circumstances of the case appeared to demand.

The partizans of the original motion called this destroying the unanimity of the meeting, and appealed to me to withdraw my amendment! What was my reply? Answer ye friends and advocates of union! Answer ye Whigs! What was my reply? Said I that I would not? No, I would, even then have saved a faction from the consequences of the disunion it had itself promoted. I told them, that if they would strike from the address to the King, the few lines which were simply laudatory of Earl Grey and his Whig associates, I would withdraw my amendment—and I reminded them that the merits of the administration might more appropriately be discussed on the question of the address to Earl Grey, which was next to be submitted to the meeting. But this proffer the Whigs rejected! Yet all the discussion was caused by me! Will the Whigs oblige me with their definition of Hypocrisy?

Their obstinacy compelled me to disgrace them in the eyes of the Public, and my amendment was carried by a majority of, at least, TEN TO ONE!!! Will they again refuse to sit down with me at a Public Dinner? Eh, lawyer Johnson? Eh, editor Lee? Eh, merchant Lamarche?

But the droll part of the affair has yet to be stated. As soon as the Whigs were defeated on their first resolution, their leaders called out to the Chairman, "Dissolve the meeting." The reply on the Chairman's side was,

"I dissolve the meeting," and the meeting which was called for the two purposes of voting separate addresses, to the Sovereign, and to his Premier, was accordingly dissolved before its second object had been entered upon. I had barely time to propose a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his impartiality down to the moment of his improper dissolution of the meeting, before all chance of further hearing was lost in the mutual congratulation of assembled thousands, on this signal defeat of the overbearing Whigs.

What next? Why, the Whigs finding they had no chance at a public meeting, got up a hole and corner concern,—passed their resolutions in private, and issuing placards, had them posted upon and over those concerning the Address agreed to at the Public Meeting, as I doubt not, with a view of surreptitiously obtaining the signatures of the thousands who would just as soon be sold by a Tory as deluded by a Whig.

What next? Why then the Tories, nine in number, following the goodly example of the Whigs, had their hole and corner meeting—passed their resolutions *nem. con.* and agreed to address their Sovereign; praying him to thank the Lords for throwing out the Bill.

The cowardly factions! Why did they not face the people on the scite of the old Gaul, and canvass the merit or demerit of the then proceedings? The jealous factions! The hypocritical dealers in political delusion! Do they yet imagine the people who have been so often betrayed will again and again submit themselves to the yoke of the parties by whom they have been so frequently deceived and so frequently sold? Let them not indulge the vain anticipation. Away with party differences! There should be none now but reformers and anti-reformers—friends and foes of the people—honest men and knaves—sensible men and fools!

I avow myself the servant of the People, not of the Whigs. I will serve the People rather than the Whigs. I would protect the people equally from the Whigs as from the Tories; and they who try to persuade the people that the Whigs have a right to be traitors because they cannot be turned out of office without the necessity of being succeeded in office by the Tories, know nothing about the matter or wilfully deceive themselves in order to the deception of others. There are in the present administration many able men and honest reformers—who are no more Whigs than Tories; and there are many members of the House of Commons, who have never been in office and are more competent to the discharge of the duties of office than most of those now connected with the Government. I would merely name Lord King in the Upper and Mr. Hume in the Lower House of Parliament. And of this the Whig ministers may rest assured that if they attempt playing off any tricks upon the people—in short if they delay for one unnecessary moment the Reform Bill, the nation will rise as one man, to vindicate their rights and avenge themselves of their enemies—no matter what the faction to which they may belong—no matter by what professions they may have sought to deceive, or by what wiles they may have planned the betrayal of oppressed and confiding millions.

Your's faithfully,
JAMES ACLAND.

P. S. The address agreed to at the PUBLIC Meeting lies for signature at 7, Wellington-Street, and 16, Bowalley Lane.

THE TOWN AND COUNTY OF THE TOWN
OF KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.

THE CHARTER HOUSE, OR GOD'S HOUSE.

(Continued from page 79.)

The property of the hospital consists of several fields and a stone pit in the parish of Hessle, certain closes or fields in the township of Cottingham and Willerby, and in the township of Myton; several houses in Hull, and certain rents or free rents of small amount. The income arising from the real property, is at present £1395. 11s. 8d. exclusive of the rent of the stone pit, which is let every four years, varying according to the surface of ground removed, and amounting on an average to £160. a year.

The particulars and rental of the Estates are given in the Appendix.

The Estates are let above their value, and a considerable reduction it is expected must be made in the amount of the rents.

There were formerly some lands at Ferriby belonging to the hospital, but they were given up under the authority of an inclosure act, for an allotment at Willerby, and they were also formerly paid some additional quit rents amounting altogether to somewhat less than 10s. a year, but payment of the largest 6s. 8d. has been discontinued since 1714, and that of the others is disputed.

Out of surplus funds of the hospital there have been purchased a share in the Hull Docks, the dividend of which is variable, but amounted last year to £38 17s. and the sum of £1700. three per cent consols, standing in the names of the Master and three other trustees and producing a dividend of £51 per annum.

Before the year 1755, the Mayor and Burgesses appear to have made rules and orders for the government and regulation of the Charity, and in 1755, on the occasion of a dispute with the then master, they filed an information in the Court of Chancery, praying among other things, that their right to superintend the Hospital as visitors might be established; but as to this part of the prayer the information was ultimately dismissed.

Since 1764, the Hospital has been managed and conducted, as nearly as circumstances would admit, in conformity to a decree made in that year, in the cause above referred to, by which it was directed that out of the revenues of the Hospital (then £525. 4s. 8d per annum) the master should receive a stipend of £100. per annum, with £1. a year for water, and that he should have the house and garden belonging to the Hospital; that fifteen poor men and fifteen poor women should be placed in the Hospital, with weekly stipends of three shillings each, and a yearly allowance of one chaldron of coals and one thousand turves, and a supply of water; that the master should be empowered to give

among them, annually, any sum not exceeding ten pounds, in lieu of occasional relief and gifts on festivals; that the number of the rooms, and the pay of the poor of the Hospital, should be increased or the number of the poor diminished, in proportion to the increase or decrease of the revenues of the charity, from time to time as the Mayor and Aldermen of Kingston-upon-Hull, and the Master of the Hospital for the time being, or the major part of them should direct, so as not to lessen the weekly pay of three shillings to each poor person; that the Master for the time being should, on or before the 24th of August every year, at the Hospital, render a true account in writing, to be verified upon oath, before a Master-extraordinary of the Court of Chancery, of all sums of money received and paid by him the preceding year on account of the Hospital, before five auditors, four of whom to be appointed in manner following, viz. :— one Alderman, and one Burgess of Kingston-upon-Hull, not an Alderman, to be nominated by the Mayor for the time being, on or before the last day of July in every year, and one other Alderman and one other Burgess, not an Alderman, to be nominated by the master for the time being, on or before the said last day of July in every year, and in case either of the parties should neglect or refuse to nominate two of such four auditors, the party in such case who should have nominated two, should supply such neglect or refusal, and nominate the whole four, and that such auditors, or the major part of them, should, before entering on any business, choose a fifth person, and that the determination of such five persons, or the major part of them, should be final as to the auditing the said accounts.

In 1780, the old hospital was taken down, and a new hospital and chapel erected, upon a handsome and commodious plan, and in 1783, some further rooms were built in addition to the hospital, for the accommodation of an increased number of pensioners.

The number of poor pensioners in the hospital, and their stipends, have been increased from time to time; an amount of the gradual increase is stated in the appendix, the number at present is 57, viz. 29 men, and 29 women, and each of them has a room in the hospital, a stipend of 6s. a week, a yearly allowance of turves, and 2½ chaldron of coals, a supply of water, and medical attendance when necessary.

The alms-people are appointed by the Mayor and Aldermen of Hull, who exercise the patronage by nominating, individually, in turn. There is no particular qualification required as to the poor people admitted; they are such persons as are proper objects of charity from age or infirmity.

The salary of the Master continued to be £100. per annum, until the Year 1813, when it was ordered by the Court of Chancery, on a petition presented by him for the purpose, to be increased to £200 a year, which is its present amount. The Master has also a house and garden opposite to the hospital.

Prayers are read in the chapel by the master twice on week days, and on Sunday afternoons, and the Sacrament is administered three times a year.

The master manages the estates and revenue, and superintends the regulation and conduct of the inmates of the hospital.

An account is given in the appendix of the receipt and expenditure for the year ending in March 1822, from whence an opinion is formed of the usual disbursements.

The accounts are annually sworn to before a Master extraordinary in Chancery, and audited and examined in the manner directed by the decree of the Court of Chancery above referred to. For some time past, the income has exceeded the expenditure, and there was a balance in the bankers' hands at the last audit of £1052 17s. 4d.

As the balance is so large, it appears to us that a part of it ought to be invested in the purchase of stock. It is suggested that if the present allowance to the poor people be continued, it will probably be necessary to apply a part of the balance to make good the annual expenditure, as it is expected that the rents will be considerably reduced.

(The amount of Lands belonging to, and the receipts and expenses of this Charity will appear in my next.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—I inform you of the Hull Corporation giving to the people in Lister's hospital, Church side, 2s. 6d. each, in honor of their most gracious Majesties' Coronation; but the people in Lister's hospital ought to have had 7s. each—the Corporation having put it in the Newspapers that the people of Lister's hospital were presented each with that amount.

October, 13, 1831.

Yours, &c. E. J.

MEM:—I should like to know the amount for which the Corporate Trustees of this Charity will credit themselves with reference to the donation in question. Having paid but 2s. 6d. per head, will they have the audacity to charge the funds of charity at the rate of 7s. per head? And will they cite as proof that they paid such amount, the lying evidence of a subservient newspaper? If they do, they will deserve the pillory and all its mercies at the hands of those they have wronged. But they will not. I hereby prevent it. This contemplated iniquity will not now be perpetrated.

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—I have observed lately in the Hull papers, the names of some Butchers, who had been punished for exposing unwholesome meat for sale.

In a former number of your Portfolio, you announced your intention of publishing the names of

such tradesmen, as should be convicted of using short weights and measures. Is not the offence of the former equally reprehensible as that of the latter? The Newspapers of this Town may shrink from their duty in not exposing those who may be *their* patrons; but is the *fearless, independent* Portfolio trammelled by the patronage of the Knights of the Cleaver?

HULL, 13th, Oct. 1831. Your's, &c. W.

MEM:—*Pooh! Pooh! let W. send me the names, duly authenticated, and I will give them publicity. If he thinks I can make my Memoirs a mere transcript of the newspapers he knows nothing about the matter. J. A.*

MEM:—In reply to several correspondents I beg to observe I never write my own speeches, but that I have seen in the Advertiser of yesterday a very fair report of the proceedings of Monday last.

☞ No. 4 of the Portfolio is now reprinted, and may be had at my office. No. 5 will be republished next week. J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

Kingston-upon-Hull.

Received of _____ the sum of Five Shillings and Threepence, being three months' composition for the Toll of fourpence per day, for the Cart of the said _____ due on the sixth day of October 1831 to the Corporation of Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull.

For the Corporation

ROBERT ANTHONY, Toll Collector.

MR. EDITOR,—Above you have a copy of a receipt for one of our legal Corporate exactions. Pray may I ask you, how much the Burgesses get of this for their proportion? NEHEMIAH.

N. B. I know if a composition is not entered into, this said Cart must pay the Mayor and Burgesses fourpence each time it goes out, and that might be twenty times per diem.

MEM:—The question asked can be answered by any Burgess—and few will smile as they reply to it. J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—The sum of four-pence per head has for some years been collected by the Vicar of Holy Trinity Parish as Easter Offerings, and it was always understood by the inhabitants, for his own use and benefit; but feeling aggrieved by the demand, I enquired of him, as the legality of the amount. He informed me that he only received two-pence per head, and that the Churchwardens received the other two-pence to purchase bread and wine for communicants. I accordingly paid the Vicar his demand and determined to resist that of the Churchwardens, and was summoned before the Magistrates of Sculcoates Hall, (for the payment of two-pence

per head for myself, and wife,) where the Vicar and his Warden, Mr. Mercer, attended, and it was there acknowledged that they knew of no Law which authorised them to collect it, excepting that of custom. The Magistrates decided against me, that I must either pay or make an appeal to the Quarter Sessions. Not being prepared to make the appeal effectually at that time, I paid the amount required with 3s. cost.

I am fully satisfied from the best law authorities in this town, that their claim is illegal; and without some stronger proof than a summons from the Magistrates to convince me, that it is either according to law or justice, I shall resist this demand to the utmost of my power, if through the medium of your valuable Publication you inform me if the opinion I have formed be correct, and which are the most effectual means of resistance. The amount collected by the Churchwardens, exclusive of what is received by the Vicar, will amount to upwards of £130. per year.

Your's, &c.

JAMES DENBY.

MEM—*This extortionate demand should most assuredly be resisted—not by one, but all. A common purse should be made for such purpose, and the parishioners should try the question in the Court of King's Bench. For the rest, let them go to an honest lawyer and he will put them in the best way of giving this imposition its quietus. Ten pounds' worth of wine for each sacramental Sunday indeed! Why, then, must Christianity be a mere excuse for drunkenness?* J. A.

TRINITY IN UNITY AND UNITY IN TRINITY—THREE CORPORATIONS—BUT ONLY ONE CORPORATION.

MR. EDITOR,—Having been in Hull a few years ago, there was a little *stir* concerning the Dock Company, who wished to throw off their shoulders a large sum of taxation, by refusing to pay poor rates. The case was brought before their Corporate brethren, and, after a trial, which was generally believed at the time to have been a mock trial, to blind the public—the verdict was given in favour of the Dock Company. Would ever any one but Hull people have brought such a case before them? As those three Corporate bodies are united in the Dock Company, it puts me in mind of an old saying, “ask my man if I be a thief.”

The Dock Company, or, as you may call them, the Trinity in Unity, having got relieved of some thousands of pounds of taxation per annum, which they thought was well managed, which was, by the town corporate, thrown promiscuously (*not justly divided*) upon private property, but more chiefly on the *Warehouses in High-Street or elsewhere*; and those were the luckiest that got the least of it. The people submitted to the burden thrown on them by those great Lords, without a murmur. You may

ask, can it be possible that such things could have been? It is well known it was so, and *remains so*. Those three corporated bodies intimidate our community from the great funds they hold that will carry them through, *right or wrong, as money is the main spring in law*, and because everybody's business is nobody's business. This is for want of *unity* and the fear of one another, and likewise the want of confidence, which makes them like the sand upon the sea shore, never to be united, and leaves them an easy prey to those self elected lords corporate; and it is their interest to keep the people in that state. There only wants unity amongst the people to defeat those beings in all their unjust proceedings. If such a thing should ever take place, it must take its rise from the instructions you give in your Portfolio, and your personal perseverance in what you have undertaken.

As for the Hull Newspapers, they are bound down with the chains of their sins, and afraid of those Trinity-in-Unity Corporators. The chief of the information they give, is of the great dinners those corporate bodies give one amongst another, and *who* presides at the head of the table; but, you may observe, they mention nothing of the concluding part, which is generally riot and drunkenness, and all kind of indecorum. They reel home as *drunk as lords*. This part of the business, the Newspapers cast a veil over—making the world believe, there is no one gets drunk but *poor labouring people*. If a reform is to take place in those *beastly practices*, let it begin with the heads of the people; let *bodies corporate* shew a good example, and I have not the least doubt but the lower order would soon follow.

My dear Sir,—You will excuse me, in falling away from the first part of my letter, which I wished to bring before you; but when one gets on the subject of stating the abuses of those people, they are so numerous, that it almost appears never to have an end. But, to return to the oppressive transaction of the corporate bodies, respecting the taxes; it is to be hoped that the owners and those interested in the property, which has been so much burdened by them, will unite and have the case tried before another tribunal.

AN OBSERVER.

MEM:—*The different Corporations of Hull play into each other's hands to their especial advantage, and to the great prejudice of the public interests. For instance, the Town Corporation will not make the Ferry-Dock—that the Dock Company may extort, in the shape of fees, a large annual sum of money, from Packet Owners and Passengers—in which the Town Corporators, as Dock-share proprietors, participate! This extortion I am resisting, and will continue to resist. But the only effectual cure for all those grievances, and the thousands of others, under which we suffer, is in that Radical Reform, which some people call Revolution. This alone will strike at the root of the evils which bad governments have generated, and under which the vital energies of the nation are paralyzed.* J. A.

TO THE UNFREE, UNWORTHY, AND DEPENDENT RESIDENT BURGESSES OF BEVERLEY.

FRIENDS,—You have the advantage of residing in a town of wealth and beauty, to be equalled only by few for healthfulness, and perhaps by none surpassed for spacious streets and cleanliness. For these blessings you are I doubt not thankful, but how much more thankful ought you to be for the benefit both to health and pocket, which you derive from the immense tracts of land of which you are the owners. The pecuniary benefit which you receive from the tracts of land (1217 ACRES) annually is great, but how much greater would they be if justice was done? Every man is his own worst enemy; which is the case with the Burgesses of Beverley; they allow themselves to be overcharged by order of the Mayor and Aldermen, under the sanction of their dumb dogs or capital Burgesses. Is it not shameful that 10s. 6d. should be charged for every head of cattle which a freeman puts into Swinmore,—9s. 6d. for every head turned into Pigham,—6s. 6d. for every head of stock turned into Westwood, and 2s. 6d. for every head of stock turned into Horn? I again ask, is it not shameful for freemen to be charged this, for grazing cattle on their own grounds? Yes, but how much more shameful is it to themselves, and injurious to their families, to be passive and pay without murmur? thus, with impunity allowing themselves to be robbed, which bespeaks my title to be just: Unfree, Unworthy, and Dependant! What a vast sum must be derived from the great number of cattle which is annually turned into the pastures, for the sole benefit of the select few, to the injury of the poor, needy, and browbeat many. I own that something must be paid, as entrance money, to answer incidental expences. But I will not allow that it is right or just to overcharge freemen; therefore I hope means will be taken, to have this enormous charge lessened more than one half, which if unanimously set about, it will be no difficult task to accomplish. Then, and not till then, will you deserve to be addressed as Free, Worthy, and Independent Burgesses of Beverley.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

HULL, Oct. 18th, 1831.

SIR,—I should wish you to look more into the Post-office and Mr. Rodmell concerning the prompt delivery of letters as they are directed. I am a sea Captain and received two letters both of the same date, the 8th of September. One of these I got in the evening of the 8th of September, for my

ship to go to St. Petersburg; the other my owners wrote me on the same day positively that the ship should not go—and which second letter I did not receive until Saturday the 10th, at a quarter past one o'clock! I was then bending sails for the voyage. Now Mr. Editor, supposing I had been appointed to sail on the Friday, what remedy would my owners have against this most negligent of Postmasters? I send you the back of one of the letters, it being a whole sheet; but the other I retain being only half a sheet of paper, and as they are both directed in exactly the same words and by the same individual, you may judge by one of the other, whether they are not perfectly clear and legible as to the place where they were to have been delivered. Now Mr. Editor, neither of those letters reached their place of destination until I, Captain William Jackson of the ship Abram, took them there, in my own coat pocket! Is this as it ought to be in a commercial town like Hull?

I wish Sir, you would give this a place in your Portfolio if it be but to show how the public are treated and imposed upon by those in power.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

LUNAR.

MEM:—The address forwarded me is perfectly legible and indeed well and clearly written. It bears the post mark "Gainsborough Sept 8, 1831." and is directed thus:—

"Capt. William Jackson
of the Ship Abram

Care of Messrs. Halls Todd and Hassell
HULL"

Further observation is needless—excepting that Mr. Rodmell is a most inefficient postmaster, and that the interests of Hull require either his immediate removal, or the immediate reformation of the bad system under which he suffers the business of his office to be mismanaged.

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—If you are really that friend to justice which you profess to be, you will give insertion into the pages of the Portfolio of the following simple facts, relating the new Church at the Pottery; the truth of which the Minister and Churchwardens of that Church are prepared to authenticate.

The Church contains twelve hundred sittings. Of these, by appointment of the King's Commissioners, six hundred are appropriated to the Minister; three hundred are set apart to be let at one shilling per annum to those who may choose to take them; and three hundred still remain free and unappropriated. The money arising from the letting of the shilling sittings does not go into the pocket of the Minister, though it legally belongs to him; and the sole reason why the plan itself was adopted, was to give the poor an opportunity of knowing and claiming their regular places, and by this means of promoting their attendance at Church. The number of sittings intended to be let at one shilling a year was originally two hundred, and it was increased to three hundred, because the poor themselves were dissatisfied when they found that the whole number was let, declining, in many instances, to make use of the free sittings, and observing that "there was nothing like having their own." I have authority to

state that when the free sittings are filled, and more are called for, they will immediately be supplied out of those which, at present, are let at a low rate.

I merely add that common honesty requires these facts to be made known through the same medium which has circulated such a mass of misrepresentation on the subject.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES.

MEM:—*Into whose pocket does the rental of the shilling sittings go—or to what purpose is it applied? The Easter dues provide the wine for sacramental use, and leave pretty pickings beside. Leave, did I say? Did leave. I should have said, for the extortion can no longer be permitted. I can tell the Minister and Churchwardens a better plan of filling State Churches than charging the poor for their seats. Let Church ministers be indeed the servants of God.—let them not defile themselves with political pitch,—let them be more careful to save souls than to accumulate pelf,—let them preach charity rather than fulminate threats of damnation,—and they will be better looked upon, better thought of, and better attended to.*

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO

HULL, October 10, 1831.

SIR,—Reading your "Portfolio" of the 5th inst. I observed a case submitted to your notice respecting a Jetty belonging to Cornelius Kay, and was disappointed in not finding an answer in your last. I therefore wish to throw what light I can on the subject for your impartial consideration, so far as truth and my own knowledge of the case shall enable me.

In the first place Sir, Mr. Kay was remonstrated with respecting the impropriety of his conduct in suffering manure to be led,—which in warm weather was really sickening to those that passed, much more to those that lived upon the spot,—but instead of doing any thing to accommodate his neighbours, he was if possible worse, and used all the provoking and aggravating meanness his low mind was master of, as well as letting carts go by ten, and I believe I may say with truth sometimes nearly twice that number, and suffer them to stand for half an hour perhaps more, waiting to deliver the most nauseous stuff that can be conceived.

You will bear in mind, Sir, that the circumstance alluded to respecting Mr. Rust and Mr. Westerdale having property there manure had to pass, is quite a different affair, as they only have to pass, and if there be anything unpleasant it is over in one minute, as they have a good distance to go to the vessel, but as Mrs. Terry was only one amongst the many who have partaken of Cornelius's mean insulting conduct more or less, and wished to have the nuisance removed, I think it a great pity, as Mrs. T. is dead, that her name should be brought on such a subject. But, Sir, if you will take the trouble to enquire of the poor people of the Pottery they will tell you who is their kind benefactor, and I have no doubt will make you view her character in a different light from what it has been presented by C. Kay. As for the late Mr. Terry I think it nearly forty years since I first knew him, and about the same time since I first knew Mr. Kay; but how to give you a contrast between the two characters is totally beyond my power: the former was a kind, humane, and benevolent

man, and had a great pleasure in doing good to his fellow-creatures; whereas the latter is the reverse of all these. As for what Mr. T. was in his younger days, I do not know that it reflects any disgrace on him whatever. You must know Sir that Cornelius Kay about thirty-seven years ago was footman to one of our present Aldermen, and was at that time a real pest to his fellow servants, and I really think has been so to society ever since; for if his character was inquired into, you would find that he has been before Magistrates as many if not more times than any man in Hull, for petty meannesses which a sensible man would think a disgrace. I was told by a man not many months ago that C. Kay accosted his Wife in the street, and she could not get clear of him till she got to her own door, and then told him to wait a little and she would send somebody to him, but he walked off or he would perhaps have got something for his trouble. I have been told also by a young woman that she has been insulted by him in the street more than once, wrapt up in a cloak, I suppose to disguise himself: what his motive may be by such conduct I shall leave you to judge. I think Sir it is a pity but there could be an action brought against such characters, not for conspiracy but for corruption of morals.—And to hear of a prowling reptile like that, trying to blacken the character of a good man who has been dead twenty-seven years last May is sufficient to rouse the indignation of any man who knew his real worth. I hope Sir you will find room for this in your valuable Publication.

I remain, Sir,

Yours very respectfully,

A LOVER OF TRUTH AND FAIR PLAY.

MEM:—*In London, carts of the description alluded to, are not permitted to traverse the streets before or after certain specified hours, and the law affords us the same protection in Hull. If ever my pages are made instrumental to falsehood or misrepresentation, it will be seen that the shaft of malice will recoil on the head of the slanderer—be he who he may.*

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—On reading your excellent paper, (No. 10, of the 12th Inst.) I find the following document;—“I hereby solemnly declare that until the People are represented in Parliament, or the Reform Bill proposed by his Majesty's Ministers passed, I will pay no Taxes or other illegal demands, &c.” which document was to lay at your office for signature.

Before signing the above document a few objections came into my mind, “as how can I keep my promise, as it is very likely if I did not pay the King's taxes when application was made for them, the tax-gatherer on my refusal would come upon my goods?” I should be glad if you could inform me in your earliest Portfolio how the law stands on this point. On reading LORD BROUGHAM's speech, delivered in the house of Lords on Friday, Oct. 7th, I find the following passage “That ‘he, (BROUGHAM) was bound as an honest man, as a Minister of the Crown, as Magistrate, and as the individual who ‘by virtue of his office was at the head of the Magistracy of this country, to say that a resolution not to pay the King's ‘taxes was an unlawful resolution.’”

I should be very glad of a reply in your earliest Portfolio. In the interim I subscribe myself,

A REFORMER.

MEM:—*All taxes are legalized—so far as they can be by a Parliament which is not representative of those who are taxed. State taxes and Church taxes stand on the same ground. Yet the Society of Friends have long since refused and still persist in refusing payment of the latter. Against this and similar requests*

the tax eaters have provided a remedy:—your goods may be seized and where there are no goods, your person may be incarcerated. But if a nation refuse to pay the taxes, who will there be to purchase the goods seized, or where the galls to hold the millions doomed by the law to imprisonment? The Whigs and the Tories alike deprecate the non-payment of taxes; because each faction, in its turn consumes the greater portion of the amount, annually extorted from the industrious classes of Society. Ought not this fact to open the eyes of the public to the deception and trickery by which the Government of the Country is carried on?

I refuse to pay taxes, unconstitutionally legalized. Suppose my goods to be seized—they must be sold—there must be buyers—and of these, if the people are true to themselves and to each other there would be so great scarcity, that the seizure of goods would be to the officials of Government a most unprofitable and dangerous,—and therefore a most improbable—course of proceeding.

I persist in my determination, and when I take my glass, the smuggler shall have preference over the Government importer—until such Government be in fact, as it is in name—representative.
J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

HULL, Oct. 13th, 1831.

SIR,—I observed in your Portfolio of Wednesday last, some remarks on the conduct of the *Worshipful Wardens of the Trinity House*: these bring to mind a Statement given by you of the Receipts of the said House, in the Portfolio of the 17th inst. but you make no mention of Rents arising from the houses on the south side of Whitefriargate, those on the west side of Trinity House Lane, the two Houses in Postern-gate adjoining the Savings' Bank, Mr. Earle's stone-yard, the tenements on the south side of Carr Lane, the farm at Dorringham Bank, the two shops rented by Mr. Vanece in Lowgate, and other places which I cannot at present remember. Are all these included in your account? Oblige me, Sir, by informing me. Again I will ask, who paid for the Chandeliers which lighten our archaicalian orielles? Who paid for the *Water Closet* which they erected adjoining their BANQUETING ROOM? Who paid for the Yacht? and who paid for the three Pipes of Wine which they got in last Christmas? Mr. Editor, if you will solve me these questions you will confer an obligation on an Old Sailor, who has paid his hard earnings to these unjust Stewards, many, many times.

I am your's respectfully,

AN OLD SAILOR.

P. S. The Wine was bought of a Mr. Turner, son-in-law to the Cock of the Walk, Mr. Bunney, who can connive at the profits of his son, and son-in-law, and bid the needy begone.

MEM:—*The accounts of this perverted Charity are in course of publication; and the sequel will shew all my correspondent desires. Meanwhile any information on the subject will be acceptable, and therefore the insertion of this letter—the questions in which cannot be now answered, without unnecessarily anticipating the official documents which I am placing before my readers in each succeeding number of my Memoirs.*
J. A.

TO W. B. WRIGHTSON, ESQ. M. P.

SIR,—As you were present at the late Public Meeting of your constituents when they agreed to address their Patriot King on the present momentous situation of the Country, I need not enter into a detail either of the address itself, or of the enthusiasm with which it was carried. I therefore content myself with enquiring whether your constituents may calculate on your presentation of such their address, and beg to inform you, that on receipt of your promise to that effect, I will, with great pleasure forward it to you.

I am Sir, your's respectfully,

HULL, Oct. 21, 1831.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—To the questions asked by your correspondent, "A Churchman," in your last number, I reply, "that neither the Ordinary nor Churchwardens, can, under any circumstances, sell pews; not even to parishoners." This practice has frequently been before the Courts, and the illegality of it has always been most expressly delivered. No custom, however ancient, can support it. An Act of Parliament alone, is sufficient to authorize it. In one case, it appeared that the Vicar and Churchwardens, in order to pay the expences of the new pews, had assigned them to certain persons, their heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, for sums specified. The Court held this to be illegal; and that subsequent Churchwardens might seat the parishoners in those pews, as if no such order had been made.* It is equally clear that no sum or consideration can be demanded as rent for a pew.† There is something, observed Lord Stowell, stated of a custom, that parishoners who have not pews appurtenant (that is to say, belonging to a dwelling-house) pay a rent for seats, which is applied in easement of the parish rate—a practice which is constantly reprehended by the ecclesiastical court, and discouraged as often as it has been set up. With regard to the 2nd. question, it is acknowledged law, "that every man who settles as a householder, has a right to call upon the parish for a convenient seat. If then, the Churchwardens neglect, or refuse to comply with an application for a seat, they may be cited before the Ordinary, to shew cause why. If they answer, that they have offered to build a pew for the applicant on condition that he pay for it, the return would be bad for it is clearly law on this subject, that a parishoner has a right to a seat in the church without such payment. If the applicant can shew that there are seats in the Church improperly occupied by non-parishoners; the court will decree a monition to the Churchwardens, to seat the applicant therein.‡

The foregoing paragraphs are extracts from a clew work on the subject, and may be relied upon as general law. The reign of misrule in our Church Establishment in this town will soon draw to a close, if the attention of the public be once directed to it.

DELTA

* Kensington v. Fryer. 1. Hagg, C. R. 318, note.

† Hagg, C. R. 317, 318.

‡ Water v. Gunner. 1. Hagg, C. R. 314.

Printed and Published by JAMES ACLAND, sole Proprietor
Editor, No. 16, Bowl-alley-Lane, Hull.

Hull Portfolio;

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES ACLAND.

"*Bonis nocet quisquis pepercit malis.*"—CICERO.

HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY JAMES ACLAND, SOLE PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR, NO. 16, BOWL-ALLEY-LANE, HULL.

Vol. 1.—No. 13.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1831.

Twopence.

TO THE PEOPLE OF HULL.

FRIENDS,—Three months since I was an utter stranger to you; yet now, I am honored with that decisive evidence of your approval which constitutes the popularity of which I may honorably boast, and which I have earned by labor of body and mind seldom surpassed. Could mere "lip-service" have secured me this advantage? Could mere professions—big words—bouncing promises, with all the *et ceteras* of ignorance and impudence have placed me in the station I now occupy? Oh, no! these are at the command of any fool, or of any knave, but they have been rejected by me as insufficient and dishonest—and in their place I have given you the active services of which you have been yourselves the witnesses, and in the beneficial result of which services, you, every one of you, more or less participate.

Thus it is that I have become what I am in your Town, and in your estimation; and, if there be those who envy me your favor, let them earn it as I have, before they either claim it for themselves, or denounce me as unworthy its continuance.—But such course it seems is not to be adopted; such condition of desert would render success extremely questionable: and the malignant spirits I have aroused, prefer the more appropriate weapons of lying assertions and misrepresented facts, as at once congenial with their feelings, and, as they think, calculated to attain the glorious object of their great desire—my destruction, or your desertion!

That within the past three months I have made many enemies is but in the natural course of events. Your many enemies—those who *have* oppressed you, and those who *would* oppress you—are *my* enemies because I am laboring to remove the oppression of the one, and to prevent the oppression of the other. These are the little Aristocrats—the Whigs and Tories of your Town; and these cordially hate me because they know I have opened your eyes, and because they fear they may never again be enabled to hood-wink and to rob you.

How many families there are, who have been living upon you for so many years, that they know not how to earn a livelihood—who have ate and drank in idleness and insolence, until they would as soon starve as disgrace themselves by honest industry or honorable frugality! All these are my enemies, because I have proved to you that they are your enemies; and because I have increased the probability of their having sooner or later to earn their bread, instead of pilfering your's. So much for the *TORIES*!

Then again, how many families there are, who have been chewing the bitter cud of vexation as they have seen you the dupes and the prey of the gang in whose hands you have proved so profitable an acquisition! How many there are, who have looked on and longed for a participation in the plunder to which you have been subjected! How many there are, who have fondly anticipated the period when they might realise that reversionary expectancy, which should transfer you from one gang to the other gang—from the gormandizers who have surfeited themselves, to the hungry and half starved lookers on, whose appetites are the more keen in proportion as the food turned over to them is the less plentiful and the less savoury. All these are my enemies, because they truly imagine that in shewing you how you have been robbed by their opponents, and in demonstrating the existence of a similar inclination to robbery on their part, I have put it out of their power to fasten themselves on you—to fatten themselves on you—to become great men, rich men and fat men at your expence, on your poverty and by your wretchedness! So much for the *WHIGS*!

In these two factions I have therefore a host of adversaries—interested adversaries and unforgiving adversaries. But these are not all. The Corporators, as Corporators, detest whilst they dread me. The knaves whom I have exposed, as beacons to warn the unwary, hate me with the bitterness of vengeance. The rogues and fools whom I have not exposed hate me in anticipation of the period when they may have cogent reasons for disliking me.

Against this phalanx, I have nothing personal to oppose. I claim not your support on personal grounds. I ask not your good opinion as a favor; neither do I claim it as a right. I seek not popularity as an advantage, nor do I invoke your praises or your plaudits as beneficial to myself. I say not to you, "I am better than all others—therefore reward me." I advance no pretensions to a monopoly of virtue or morality. I profess no exclusive superiority. Yet you invest me with popularity. And wherefore? Is it not because you find me zealous in your service—because you have seen me active in your protection—because you have good reason to support me in my efforts to relieve you from the oppression under which you have groaned and suffered beyond further endurance? Is not my popularity your gift—and is not our mutual devotion to each other, conditional alike on service rendered, and to be rendered by me—and on support given and to be given by you?

Thus then it is that I am enabled to grapple with the host whose interest it is to oppose me by the destruction of the mutual confidence now existing between us. I am strong in your strength; let others claim perfection—I am not sufficiently hypocritical to do so.

Many among you may ask, "what has occasioned this address?" I will tell you.

Since the publication of my last Portfolio I have been subjected to two distinct attacks—alike false and malignant, although not alike cowardly. These I shall notice separately: and first. I have to direct your attention to as atrocious an act as ever paltrone planned, or assassin perpetrated. On Monday last thousands of copies of a printed circular address were distributed about Hull and Barton, partly by post, and partly by delivery under the doors of individuals in the dead of night! This printed letter is signed, "Argus," a name no were to be found in any of the existing directories. It bears no imprint. Both author and printer were ashamed of their parts in this cowardly attack, and each, like the midnight murderer, seeks in obscurity that concealment which they know to be necessary—that protection to which no law, moral or judicial, would hold them to be entitled.

The letter is addressed to the Corporation. But it was written for the purpose of calumniating me,—as the following extract will abundantly prove:—"You have been bearded by a mountebank demagogue, a political impostor, a fellow who in quick succession has been a strolling player, a ranting preacher, a showman, and a practitioner at the Bar, and who is now in jeopardy every hour of his life lest every stranger he meets should prove a police officer."

Now, let us see how much of this is true and how much false; and whether in common fairness that which is true will in any manner justify the coloring which this cowardly blackguard has attempted to give to it.

First, I am called a *mountebank demagogue*. I am certainly dissatisfied with the existing abuses—and so

far I am a demagogue. I, as certainly, am at all times ready to mount either a bank or a platform in denunciation of those abuses—and so far I am a mountebank.

The scribbling coward next calls me a *political impostor*. The liar! let him dare avow himself, and perhaps I shall have no difficulty in proving him that which he therefore desires to represent me.

Then I have been a *Strolling player*. So was Shakespeare—Kean—Kemble and Young; and so was not I. My age is 32; I have been married 12 years, and some few years before I was married, I was stage-struck, led the tragic department at a London Theatre, and played one season at a Provincial Theatre Royal. What then?—better be even a strolling player than a lying poltroon, such as my accuser. As a poor player, I had ability sufficient to the earning of upwards of three hundred a year, whereas it is extremely probable that the being who calls himself "Argus" can only escape starvation, by the sale of his conscience and his pen, to the grasp-all lessees of as grasp-all Corporators.

Next I am charged with having been a "*ranting preacher*." What wonderful diversity of talent! Strange that he does not call me fool!—My first sermon was preached at Bristol, on an apposite occasion, from the text, "Do not rich men oppress you, and drag you before their judgment seat?"—and my last sermon, at Chepstow, on the duties of Ministers of the State Church, on a Sunday in the market place. Do these sermons constitute me a ranting preacher?

I am then told that I have been a *showman*, and the only foundation for this assertion is to be derived from the fact, that some six years since, I delivered a lecture on "Mind and Memory" in illustration of the extraordinary arithmetical talent of an untutored child, whom I was instrumental in introducing to the notice of the world and whose talent of mental calculation fully equalled that of the celebrated *Bidder*, with this great superiority, that he could always explain the process whereby he attained the solution required, and which process was peculiar to himself and totally at variance with all the received rules of calculation. It is true that since that time, I have been a *showman* of another description, first in Shaftesbury, then in Bristol, and now in Hull, and in each place I have had a menagerie of the most extraordinary, repulsive, obnoxious and voracious animals that were ever shown up by even Pidcock or Atkins. Suffice it for an example that my CORPORATORS are unprecedented for the capaciousness of their *maws* and my LESSEES for the size of their *paws*, and the tenacity of their *claws*, when in contact with either shillings or hats.

That I have been "*a practitioner at the Bar*," is asserted thus loosely in order that the obvious inference of *criminality* may be drawn by the reader and the public. I have been prosecuted twice—but it was for having dared to write, print and publish that which was true of the Corporators of Bristol and which prosecutions I conceive honorable testimonials of my character as a writer and a man. You may probably be aware that a party libelled

has a legal remedy by two distinct proceedings, the one in a Civil, the other in a Criminal Court. By the former the defendant may escape punishment if he can establish the truth of the matter published, whilst by the latter he is debarred from such proof, and may be convicted and sentenced on the mere evidence that he proclaimed as a dishonest man, one who had been convicted of felony! No honest man would avail himself of so iniquitous a law, and my Corporate prosecutors did so in each of the two cases of my being "a practitioner at the BAR." I glory in having been so, and would rather again endure what I have already endured than be capable of anonymously taunting with the criminality of a thief, one who has boldly defended the oppressed poor from the heartless tyranny of their Corporate despots!

The last charge of all, that ends this strangely lying catalogue, alleges that I am now in jeopardy every hour of my life, lest every stranger I meet should prove a police officer. The scribbling scamp ought to have added that I THEREFORE proclaim myself the Editor of the Portfolio, hourly expose myself to public observation on the paddle-box of the "Public Opinion," convene public meetings to address the throne and move and carry the amendments of Common sense, whenever the Whigs would stultify the people for the purpose of bespattering themselves with praise and securing to their party a continued enjoyment of the "loaves and fishes"!!!

Having thus wound up my thread of confessions in order to the twisting of a noose for this varlet, the enquiry which will force itself on the mind of each reader, is "who is the party to be gibbeted?" Who is Mister Argus? Who is this shadow of a shade---this skulker from the consequences of his own act---this literary assassin---who is he? Does HE fear a Police officer, that he hesitates to give his lies currency by the appendage of his name to the vehicle of their publication? Who can he be that thus disinterestedly devotes his time and expends his money for the protection of the public from the efforts of one whom they esteem their friend? Where shall we seek this eccentric philanthropist who indulges in his midnight wanderings for the gratification of dropping his kindly warnings beneath the doors of deceived thousands? Who can he be?

I believe the writer of this letter to be the new Editor of the "Lincoln and Newark Times,"---one MISTER WILKINS and further that this MISTER WILKINS is the hired partizan of the Ferry Lessees---and further that he is hired for the attainment of one of two purposes---viz. either to bully the Corporation out of "money"---or to bully me out of my "opposition." This I believe; and the reasons of such my belief I shall now proceed to place before you.

On the evening of Sunday the 16th Instant, the two Ferry Packets being at Barton Jetty, the passengers of the "Cheater" had to land over the "Public Opinion;" among others was Mr. Parkinson the foreman of the concern who with another had just landed, when, perceiving him on the Jetty, I addressed him from my gangway in remonstrance against certain damage willfully done to my packet in the course of the day by Rhodes, the Captain of the Cheater. Parkinson having nothing to say in defence of the act so complained of by me, HIS COMPANION became the spokesman, charged me with having been a show-man, asked me if I made my calculations on the same principles as Master Noakes (the name of the arithmetical prodigy before alluded to) and told me that he would take care the

people of Hull should be made acquainted with my history---that he would attend the public meeting the next day, and there and then, to my face, expose me. I replied that I should be most happy to meet him on the hustings. He then left the Jetty arm in arm with Parkinson. As soon as he was gone, three gentlemen, passengers on board my packet, came to me and enquired if I knew the man. I observed that it was too dark for any one to have known another at the distance from my gangway to the Jetty, and that I had no idea who the individual was. They then told me that his name was WILKINS, that he had long been travelling about the country delivering political lectures at so much per head; and that he had recently become the Editor of the "Lincoln and Newark Times."

On the Monday I attended the Public Meeting convened by the Whigs---and this Wilkins was, pursuant to his pledge, on the hustings. Whilst I was addressing you, this Wilkins continually interrupted me, and persisted in doing so until by the interference of the Reverend Chairman he was at length compelled to conduct himself with the appearance of propriety. When I had moved the amendment which was afterwards triumphantly carried. I asked this man who he was, whereupon he handed me his card, and on it I read the name of Wilkins. After my amendment had been seconded by Mr. Walworth, this Wilkins asked me to beg a hearing for him at your hands. I told him you were reasonable beings and would hear him without my interference, but that if not I would then interfere in his behalf. I was not deceived; for you did hear him deliver his often-repeated lecture on the necessity of Reform---when the question was, the propriety of an address to the Sovereign. In the course of his address he spoke to you of me---and when he first mentioned my name, it was highly amusing to witness the expression of eager anticipation and delight, manifested on one countenance among the thousands in front of the hustings. The face in question was that of PARKINSON. He was wedged in pretty closely, and I should suppose his elbows pinned in compelled contact with his hips; or otherwise I could almost have sworn he was rubbing his hands in a paroxysm of joy. But the dear friend of the book-keeper of the Lessees of the Cheater forgot himself strangely, and forgot his pledge, and, like the prophet of old, was heard blessing him he was hired and came to curse. I should observe here that this Wilkins was forced to the front of the hustings by certain active leaders or partizans of the Whigs. Why? Assuredly not because he would laud Whiggery, but, as assuredly, because he was brought there to attack, defame, and belie me!

In that week's "Lincoln and Newark Times," there is a paragraph, which is twin brother to the one embodied in the printed circular to which I have directed your attention. Wilkins is the Editor of the "Lincoln and Newark Times," and scores of that particular number of his paper were gratuitously distributed among the inhabitants of Hull---especially among the publicans.

From Sunday the 16th, until now, scarcely a day has passed without this Wilkins identifying himself with the Lessees of the Cheater and the disappointed requisitionists of the Whig Meeting.

Among the distributors of this anonymous collection of falsehood and misrepresentation, Mrs. Woods of the Barton water-side house, is one of the most conspicuous.

These are the reasons for my belief; and is not such belief reasonable? But some will ask wherefore this Wilkins should make so cold-blooded an attempt on me, with whom he has never had the slightest connection. I at first thought his acquaintance with the localities of Shaftesbury might have operated on his mind, inducing his hostility to me. At that town some years since, I started, in conjunction with a member

of the Society of Friends, Mr. John Rutter, an enlightened and dauntless Reformer, a weekly periodical entitled the "Shastonian," in exposure of the Magisterial Boroughmongers by whom he was shamefully persecuted. I have some recollection of the name of Wilkins in that town, and I believe this Wilkins is the son of the individual who there resides. I know of nothing to the prejudice of the father, but I shall shortly learn whether or not he be an adherent of the wrong-doers of that place; and if so, I shall consider such fact the pivot of my anonymous calumniator's enmity. However this may be, the friendship of Parkinson, Rhodes, and Co. is sufficient cause for the splenetic rhapsodies of their blustering associate.

Still I have other reasons for estimating the motives of this Wilkins's mountebank excursion from Lincoln to Hull. It appears that he is not well content with his Lincoln speculation, and has avowed that he is desirous of commencing a Newspaper in this Town. On which side, you will ask. Not on that of the Tories---for he professes himself an advocate for "the Sponge" and universal suffrage. Not on that of the Whigs---for he told you he had a worse opinion of them than even that I entertain. Is it on the side of the People think you? Aye---BUT THAT I AM IN HIS WAY! He therefore must first get rid of me---and he has made the attempt---not on the Hustings as he threatened, (Oh, no! there he lauded me!) but behind-back, in an anonymous attack of the foulest description---like a cowardly assassin! IS SUCH MY CONDUCT? CHOOSE YOU BETWEEN US!

My Friends---I have dwelt at so great length on the production of this Wilkins, that, were I to consult your wishes only, I should perhaps pass over the second edition of his lies which appeared in the Packet of Tuesday last. But I must claim of you an admission of my right to feel as a man, and to consult such feelings, such outraged feelings, on the present occasion. The exclusion of much valuable correspondence is imperative upon me---for which I hereby apologise to my many kind epistolary supporters---and merely remind you, my readers, that my private affairs have been obstructed upon your notice---not by myself, but by my enemies and yours.

I should be glad to know how long the Editor of the Packet has been honoured with the acquaintance of Wilkins. I know they were arm in arm in the streets of Hull on Monday, the day preceding the publication of the Packet. But surely it needs no argument to prove the identity of the attack. I wish the Hull Editor joy upon this accession of strength, respectability, and character to his Tory establishment. I beg pardon, for although a reformer on paper and in his Editorial capacity, this gentleman is a rank Anti-Reformer in private. As therefore I have him on my hands Editorially, I must not consider him Tory-ally. I even question whether my pun be edifiable; but, be that as it may, I must be serious, and proceed at once to the matter, taking the leading paragraphs of the false and malicious libel serialism, printing such paragraphs in Italics, and commenting on each in succession.

"This man, worthless as he may be in point of principle and respectability."

Is the Editor of the "Packet" competent to judge of either of these qualifications? He would define principle to be the advocacy of despotism in the parlour, and of reform and liberality in a newspaper! The principle of two faces under one hood is his by personal exemplification---and to be told by such a man that I may be unprincipled, at least permits me to hope that there is a great difference between us on this point. And what may be his notions of respectability? That of a would-be aristocrat. God help him---the times are changed since he conned his dictionary---for respectability now means honesty, and has reference to character and conduct; whereas, with him it means political subserviency to sinecurists, and personal deference to the last Bond-Street cut. For my part, I ape not the respectability of black-spittle-puppies.

"He has the audacity, the reckless and insulting impudence, to propose himself as the future representative of the town of Hull, in Parliament."

Aye---and thereby to prevent the Tory friends of the Editor of the Packet from having a chance of degrading Hull in the eyes of regenerated England. And I shall keep my promise, whether I poll one, or thousands. I shall stand the contest, and a severe and costly one it shall be if there be found a "Tom Noddy" to stand the racket. This purpose of mine is the real stumbling-block with the exclusives of Kingston-upon-Hull. The people, forsooth, must not have other representatives than it may please the factions to impose upon them. We shall see.

"Who is this Mr. James Acland?---what are his claims to the confidence of the people of Hull? What has he done for the Town of Hull?"

I am the Editor of the Portfolio---my accuser, Editor of the Packet---what our respective claims on the confidence of the People of Hull may be, or what we may have respectively done for the Town of Hull, I leave to the decision of those who can attain a more impartial judgment than either of us---the Hull Public.

"If he were to become its representative, he would sell it to the best bidder, with all its rights, privileges, and immunities to boot."

I have heard that the old woman would never have searched the oven for her daughter, if she had not been there herself. But I would not so far disgrace myself, as to prophesy of the conduct of even my calumniator, on an imagined alteration of his position in society. By what right---or on what ground does he so prophesy of me? He may esteem himself respectable, but I can never admit he is a gentleman.

"Why did not the citizens of Hull enquire who and what this man was before they suffered him to fix himself here?"

Observing, just to shew the ignorance of this fellow, that Hull is not a City, I am at a loss to imagine by what stretch of boundless impudence he dares arrogate to himself, or others, the right of excluding any individual from the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull! This surely is the retreat of intellect, the advance of audacity and the gallop of monopoly! Nobody should be permitted to fix himself in Hull who purulence may compete in popularity with the Editor of the Hull Packet! No other individual is to be allowed to challenge the voice of Public Opinion! No other man is to find his talent and his energies marketable commodities in Kingston-upon-Hull! The public are not to choose whom they will have to serve them, because, forsooth, there is this man of all work, who can, happily, give himself a character, and who takes the service as a right, and the exclusion of all others from a participation in such service as a matter of course. A pretty man this for a dictator over the People of Hull! Pray who is he? What are his claims on public support? What has he done for Hull?

"This immaculate politician, &c. actually, but a few weeks since, offered his services to the agent of one of the Anti-Reform candidates at Grimsby."

Now for the simple fact. The Grimsby election took place shortly after my arrival in Hull, and it being reported that Mr. George Tennyson the eldest son of the Member for Stamford, (in whose cause I was zealously engaged,) would stand the contest, I repaired thither in the hope of advancing his interests. Mr. T. did not however become a candidate, but on the evening of my reaching Grimsby, the four gentlemen who actually went to the pole made their entry. Two of them were Anti-Reformers, and two the nominees of a Boroughmonger. All were enemies to the cause of pure representation. I longed to launch out against each of the factions, and I repeatedly declared to both parties that I should be delighted to lash each brace, in successions from the Hustings of their opponents. Call you that an offer of service Mr. Editor? If so, pray what would you call a disservice? Answer that Master Brooke.

At the close of the proceedings of the Whig Public meeting, Wilkins walked from the Hustings, arm in arm with one of the proprietors of the Packet and was heard to ask him "Why do you not shew

is man up? Why do you let him have such influence over the people? I can tell you all about him—from first to last. From this circumstance it would seem that the Packet has consented to be the creature and the tool of a man who dare not put forth his lies in his own name. And yet the Editor affects to attack me in protection of public morality, when in fact he is but the cat whose paw the monkey is grinningly introduced between the hot bars, for the sake of the dessert he covets, at any cost, so that it be at the cost of others. At events I have taken care it should be well roasted.

But I must leave this subject for the present. I really am almost ashamed of having wasted so much valuable space on such a subject. However, as the man has attempted thus to force himself on publication, (a manoeuvre which his limited circulation rendered absolutely necessary) I have considered it my duty (so you as to myself) to take measures to reduce him to that insignificance which is his proper sphere, and which will render his schemes abortive and his venom innocuous.

A few words are still necessary on a general review of this black guardly conspiracy to defame me in your estimation. Suppose every thing true that these men have asserted, or hoped, to my prejudice. Would that re-establish the Monopoly of the Lumber Ferry—or make the widow refund her own—or legalize the Market Tolls—or undo any thing I have done, or render my future services less necessary? When I came among you, I introduced myself by my acts—made a character, and secured your good opinion. If I were drowning and a thief were to rescue me from a watery grave, should I be justified in repaying his kindness with a kick? Would his assistance have been more valuable, if he had been a pattern of virtue?

But these assailants have drawn the line; they have decided, and he it remembered, have so decided on behalf and in the names of the Whigs and Tories of Hull, that no man is to be a candidate for popularity in Hull without subjecting himself to a severe scrutiny into his every private act—and, if that will not effect the desired purpose, to a dastardly series of accusations, written with the pen of malice, dipped in the gall of heartlessness, guided by the hand of enmity, and prompted by the inventive genius of a maniac, or a desperado! Yet these are the guardians of morality—and these, too, are the advocates of unanimity, and the declaimers against dissensions among reformers!

Finally, I desire to be judged by my acts; and, if you be such fools as to condemn me on the word of others, when you yourselves are the witnesses of the justice of my claim to your support, you will deserve no better than the dog in the fable, who, grasping at the shadow, lost the substance.

Yours respectfully,

JAMES ACLAND

MEM:—I shall forthwith proceed to lay information against those parties who have circulated the anonymous falsehoods to which the signature of Argus is attached but which has no imprint to it. The penalty shall be devoted to public purposes of which I shall hereafter give account. If any of my readers can assist me in this matter, I may be hereby enabled to trace the infamy to its source.

J. A.

MARKET TOLLS.

The time is come when this iniquitous imposition, this barefaced robbery must be put an end to. The Corporators know they have no right to exact from the public this tax on the necessary articles of consumption. They know they have no legal claim against those from whom they have so long extorted the greater portion of their uncertain earnings.

The market of Kingston upon Hull is a free market. The Corporators themselves have, by their cupidity, by their over-reaching anxiety to abstract money from the pockets of the industrious, forfeited all right to every description of Toll charged for permission to sell goods in the market place.

Will they question this doctrine? They are perfectly at liberty to do so if they think proper. They are not ignorant of the necessary course of procedure. They have consulted eminent counsel on their right to charge toll and on the means of enforcing the payment of such toll. The case they submitted to Counsel is in my possession, together with the opinions of the talented gentlemen to whose superior legal judgment they appealed on the occasion to which I refer.

That case and those opinions I will publish at length in my next Portfolio. Meanwhile I shall act upon them, and on Tuesday next erect a Free-Trade. Standing immediately in front of the Statue of William the Third, in the market-place, for the express purpose of trying this question, and of bringing it to issue. I shall have goods for sale, although I shall take care to avoid the charge of monopoly by selling only such goods as no one else in the market will have for disposal. Let the tool of the Corporators come to my stall and demand his Toll. I pledge my existence he shall go away unharmed if he be not madly insolent; but at the same time I tell him that he will get no toll from me, and that if he touches my property with a felonious intent I shall protect it to the utmost of my power.

To the market people I have but few words to offer. If they act with me, the victory is won and they will ever after be free from this oppressive and illegal Toll. They have nothing to fear. I tell them the Toll is illegal. I am ready to prove it so. Let them not pay it until I have been compelled by the law to do so. Let them unite with me in mutual protection of our property from thieves, whether they call themselves the servants of Corporators or of their great ancestor Old Nick. So shall we do justice to ourselves, to our children and to the community of which we are members.

I am having the framework of my stall made and shall leave the "Public Opinion" for the market place on Tuesday morning next Nov. 1st. at a quarter before 10 o'clock precisely.

The mountebank demagogue will be a sore thorn in the sides of our oppressors yet, and they may take my word for it that this is only the beginning of the Hull reformation. They who shall live to see the end of it, will not have lived in vain, and they who shall have wrought in the work, from its commencement to its termination, will have good cause of self gratulation that they have been permitted to live to the service of their fellow creatures and to labor in the cause of justice; in the maintainance of right principles and in resistance to the oppressor.

JAMES ACLAND.

**A COPY OF THE CHARTER GRANTED BY
KING CHARLES THE SECOND TO THE
TOWN OF HULL, DATED THIRD OF
DECEMBER, ONE THOUSAND SIX HUN-
DRED AND SIXTY ONE.**

(Continued from page 84.)

AND FURTHERMORE, we will by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, grant to the aforesaid Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid, and their successors, that if it shall happen the Mayor of the Town or Borough aforesaid at any time within one year after that to the office of mayoralty of the Town or Borough aforesaid, he shall be made and sworn as is aforesaid, to die or be removed from his office, and which Mayor not carrying himself well in the said office, we will shall be removed at the good pleasure of the greater part of the Aldermen and Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid, that then, and so often, it shall and may be lawful to the greater part of the Aldermen and Burgesses of the same Town or Borough, within fourteen days next following the death, or removing of such Mayor to assemble in the Guild-Hall of the Town or Borough aforesaid, or in any other convenient place within the Town or Borough aforesaid, and that thereupon it may and shall be lawful to the greater part of the Aldermen and Burgesses of the same Town or Borough for the time being, so assembled, to chuse, name, and make, one other honest and fit man of the aforesaid Aldermen of the Town or Borough aforesaid, in the place of him so dead, or from his office removed, and that he into the office of mayoralty so elected and chosen, a Corporate Oath in form aforesaid first being taken, that office shall have, and exercise during the residue of the same year, and until one other Alderman of the Town or Borough aforesaid to that effect shall be elected and made, by virtue and according to the tenor of these our letters patent, and so from time to time as often as the case shall so happen. And if it shall come to pass the Sheriff of the said Town or Borough aforesaid, and County of the same, to die, or from his office of Sheriff of the Town or Borough aforesaid, and County of the Town or Borough aforesaid to be removed, and which Sheriff not carrying himself well in his office aforesaid, we will, to be removed at the good pleasure of the Mayor and greater part of the Aldermen and Burgesses of the same Town or Borough for the time being, that then, and so often it shall and may be lawful to the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, within fourteen days next after that the aforesaid Sheriff shall so die, or be removed from his said office in the Guild-Hall of the Town or Borough aforesaid, or in any other convenient place within the Town or Borough aforesaid to assemble; and that thereupon it shall and may be lawful to the aforesaid Mayor and greater part of the Aldermen and Burgesses

of the same Town or Borough, for the time being so assembled to chuse, name, and make one of the said Town or Borough aforesaid, in the place of him the Sheriff so dead, or removed from his office; and that he so as aforesaid elected and made in that office, shall have, and exercise during the residue of the year, and until another of the Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid, to the office of Sheriff of the said Town or Borough shall be elected and sworn, a Corporate Oath in form aforesaid first to be taken, and so from time to time, so often as it shall so happen. And if any one, or any of the said Aldermen of the Town or Borough aforesaid for the time being, he shall die, or they shall die, or from their office he shall, or they shall be removed when not carrying themselves well in their office, and whom we will shall be removeable at the good pleasure of the Mayor and greater part of the Aldermen and Burgesses of the same Town or Borough for the time being, that then, and so often it shall and may be well and lawful to the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid for the time being, in convenient time after that such Alderman and Aldermen shall die or from their office shall be removed in the Guild-Hall of the Town or Borough aforesaid, or in any other convenient place within the Town or Borough aforesaid to assemble; and that thereupon it shall and may be lawful to the aforesaid Mayor and the greater part of the Aldermen and Burgesses of the same Town or Borough, so assembled from time to time to elect, frame, and make one or more of the Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid, into the place or place of him the said Alderman, or of the said Aldermen of the Town or Borough aforesaid, in and by all things to that office belonging, before the Mayor of that Town or Borough for the time being, and in his absence before any other of the Aldermen of the same Town or Borough in form aforesaid, and respectively he shall take and they shall take to the Mayor of the Town or Borough aforesaid for the time being in his absence to and of the same Town and Borough aforesaid for the time being, full power and authority to give and administer such Oath from time to time in form aforesaid, we do give and grant by these presents and that after such like Oath so taken and performed every person and persons so elected and sworn to that office, shall be and continue in the same office of Alderman and Aldermen of the same Town or Borough during his life and their lives natural respectively excepting the time for evil government, whom in such case we will be removeable in form as aforesaid, and so from time to time the elections to be made so often as the case so shall happen. AND FURTHERMORE, we will by these presents and for us our heirs and successors do grant to the aforesaid Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid, one noble and discreet man who shall be and shall be called High Steward of the Town or Borough aforesaid, and we ha

signed, constituted and made, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors we do assign, name, institute, and make our well beloved and very faithful cousin and councillor George Duke of Albermarle be the first and present High Steward of the Town Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull aforesaid, to continue in the same office during the natural life of him we said George Duke of Albermarle.

(To be continued.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—Apprehending that in the present all absorbing Political crisis, the proceedings of one of our Corporate Bodies, the Commissioners of Pilots, may escape your notice, I cannot refrain from drawing your attention to the notification in the Hull Papers of last week, by the said Commissioners, of their intention during the next Sessions, to apply to parliament for two additional Acts, the one for the establishment of a floating light near the Bell Sand in the River Humber, the funds for its maintenance to be raised by certain rates and duties on all vessels entering the River; the other to alter, amend and enlarge the powers and provisions of their original Act, 30 and 40 Geo. III. for the appointment and regulation of Pilots; ascertaining the salvage of anchors and cables, and other ship's materials, found in the River Humber, and for the better ascertaining of the Tonnage of all Lighters," in order better to defend the rights of the said Act; for the better regulation of the Pilots, Masters and Owners of Vessels liable to Pilotage within the limits of such Act; as also to alter or amend the several rates of pilotage and other rates or sums payable under the said Act, &c. &c. &c. Now Sir, altho' these Commissioners do not constitute, one of our guzzling bodies corporate, and are therefore, in fairness entitled to be treated with more consideration and confidence than what you will agree with me, is due to the members of the two Corporations, whose indulgence of their masticating and bibulous propensities, at the expence, and to the illegal prejudice of the poor seaman, or the humble Burgess, so justly merits the castigation you have inflicted; I conceive that it is nevertheless your duty to watch with all due care and jealousy this attempt on their part to saddle us with additional local enactments, which I for one think that we have already *quantum suff*: for altho' the verb, *amend*, figures prominently in the notice, and so far promises fair, there is reason to apprehend, that if intimately acquainted with the *Key to Corporate Phraseology*, we should find this word to convey

a meaning widely different from its general acceptation, and this impression, in connection with the words "*to enlarge the powers and provisions*," which are rather ominous, tends to make me the more anxious to give you the watchword in time.

As appertaining to this subject, and for your information I must, state, that for a number of years past the Commissioners of pilots have sanctioned the levying of a much higher rate of Pilotage, upon all vessels putting into the Humber wind-bound and those piloted into Grimsby roads, than the Act, which is perfectly clear, authorises; and that it was only a few months ago that this illegal and oppressive charge on the ship-owners was effectually resisted and rectified; and it strikes me that as the concession was rather reluctantly made, one of the proposed amendments as regards the rates of Pilotage, is intended to re-establish the old illegal charge, and thus virtually to increase the original Pilotage upon certain vessels; for were reduction, which ought to be the order of the day, contemplated, necessary powers are vested in the Commissioners by the original act, which fixes a minimum and maximum rate of Pilotage, which latter is however the one levied. It is however hoped that the Ship-owners in the North, and the Mercantile interests of this Port, and of the Ports of Goole and Grimsby will have their eyes open, and take necessary means to prevent any such alteration, if my suspicion be correct.

The perusal of the intended Bill would however set this matter at rest, and no doubt the Commissioners will give the public timely opportunity of ascertaining the nature of their amendments, by causing copies of the intended Bills to be left at the public rooms.

I am Sir, Your Obedient,

WATCHMAN.

MEM:—If there be sufficient spirit in Hull for the formation of a CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, its establishment would greatly conduce to the protection of its commercial and trading interests. For instance, the Committee would officially investigate the important question involved in the foregoing communication, and the highly disgraceful and dangerous state of the harbour would command the vigilant exercise of an efficient influence in behalf of the Shipping of our Port, endangered as it now is by the sunken piles and muddy mountains which ought long since to have been removed. To this subject I shall take an early occasion to revert; meanwhile I solicit communications in furtherance of the views I have here presented to the notice of my readers.

J. A.

HULL CHARITIES.

ACCOUNT OF LANDS, &c. BELONGING TO THE CHAR-
TER HOUSE.

Tenants.	Description.	IN HESSLE PARISH.		Rents.
		Acres.	a. r. p.	
Mark Green	sundry fields	63	0 0	128 14 0
Sarah Burn	With house, barn, &c. sundry fields	13	0 12	
Samuel Burstal	small close Year to year.	1 2	26	7 19 0
J. R. Pease, Esq.	sundry closes	31	2 18	83 15 6
Executors of J. Barkworth.	close and foreshore	9	3 6	50 0 0

Fourteen years Lease, two years unexpired. Part converted into a ship-yard, but not found to answer, and, in consequence, reduced to its former state.

N. B. The stone pit is in the lands rented by J. R. Pease, Esq. and J. Barkworth.

Tenants.	Description.	IN WILLERBY.		Rents.
		Acres.	a. r. p.	
Richard Pickering	sundry fields	73	1 16	130 0 0

Tenants.	Description.	IN CUTTINGHAM.		Rents.
		Acres.	a. r. p.	
N. Sykes, Esq.	two fields	15	2 0	31 0 0
William Green	two fields	30	0 10	52 10 0
B. B. Haworth, Esq.	one field	16	1 19	25 0 0
William Archbutt	sundry fields	50	3 29	35 0 0

Tenants.	Description.	IN MYTON LORDSHIP.		Rents.
		Acres.	a. r. p.	
William Lewis	one field	3	2 0	21 0 0

Tenants.	Description.	QUIT RENTS		Rents.
		Acres.	a. r. p.	
Rev. R. Sykes,	one and day			1 17 11
Thomas Temple				0 6 0
John Broadley, Esq.				0 13 4
J. R. Pease,				0 7 2½
Rev. R. Sykes	Diocesan helmas			0 12 0
Green, Brough, and Todd				0 1 2½

Not paid or lost

Tenants.	Description.	F		Rents.
		Acres.	a. r. p.	
J. R. Pease, Esq.				0 2 6

Tenants.	Description.	Rents.	
		£	s. d.
Joseph Des Forges	house, shop and staith	68	12 0
On a building Lease for forty-two years, from October 1793.			
James Wilkinson	house and shop	17	8 0
Foss now Poole,	house and shop	22	10 0
John Liddell	public house	42	0 0
Jackson and Stubbs	several houses	170	0 0

In Blue Bell-Entry, the ground let on a building Lease for sixty years, from October 1808.

Richard Wray	public-house	19	19 0
Thomas Dunning	house and shop	30	0 0
David Baines	small raff yard	18	0 0
Thomas Temple	public-house	18	0 0

On Lease for twenty years, from April 1815.

Charles Thompson & Co.	house and staith	150	0 0
Thomas Wilson	public-house, stables } and two shops }	112	8 0
Foster	dwelling-house	26	0 0
Lison	public-house	30	0 0
Turner	house and shop	60	0 0
Lundie	dwelling-house	21	0 0
Jackson	house and shop	19	19 0
Wells	house and shop	21	0 0
Perry	house and shop, empty		
Hibblewhite	house and shop, empty		

CHANGES IN THE NUMBER AND PAY OF THE POOR IN
GOD'S HOUSE, FROM 1717 TO 1822.

Date	No.	Weekly pay.	Remarks.
		s. d.	
1717	31	1 4	Mr. Clark's first audit. It appears that for four weeks there were 40 pensioners receiving 1s. per week. For the rest of the year the number varied from 29 to 25, receiving 1s. 4d. For this no satisfactory account can be given.
1721	26	1 4	
1724	26 to 29		
1725	30		
1743	30 to 26		
1744	30		
1754		2 0	
1770		2 6	
1765		3 0	
1767	27		Mr. Bourne, Master.
1768	26		
1780		3 6	
1790	{ 27 at 11 at	3 6 2 6	In this year to the former number at 3s. 6d. were added (as it appears) 11 at 2s. 6d. each.
1793	40	3 6	
1795	39		
1797		4 0	
1799	42		
1803	56		In this year a new building containing 14 rooms, was added. Mr. Baskett's first audit.
1806	57	5 0	
1811		6 0	
1822			

The Hospital founded 1384
rebuilt 1780
Additional part 1803

The Rev Kingsman Baskett's (Master of God's House) account, beginning 25th March 1821, to 26th March 1822.

LADY-DAY AND MICHAELMAS RENTS.

	£	s.	d.
Joseph Des Forges	68	12	0
James Wilkinson	17	8	0
Foss	22	10	0
John Liddle	42	0	0
R. Wray	19	19	0
Jackson and Stubbs	110	0	0
Rainsford	21	0	0
Mark Green	118	9	0
R. Pickering	80	10	0
J. R. Pease, Esq.	42	10	0
Charles Thompson, Esq.	150	0	0
William Archbutt	35	0	0
B. B. Hannarth, Esq.	25	0	0
	752	9	0

LADY-DAY AND MARTINMAS RENTS.

Dunning	30	0	0
D. Baines	18	0	0
Temple	18	0	0
Wilson	112	8	0
M. Green	10	14	0
S. Bourne	41	3	0
Penning	7	19	0
Barkworth	50	0	0
J. R. Pease, Esq.	41	5	6
(Hibblewhite empty)			
(Penny empty)	329	9	6

Hull Portfolio;

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES ACLAND.

"*Bonis nocet quisquis pepercerit malis.*"—CICERO.
HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY JAMES ACLAND, SOLE PROPRIETOR AND
EDITOR, NO. 16, BOWL-ALLEY-LANE, HULL.

VOL. I.—No. 14. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1831. Twopennee.

THE DASTARDLY PRESS.

THE attacks of the Packet Editor are too contemptible for lengthened notice. In his paper of Tuesday he seeks to draw a distinction without a difference, and then upon to build a contradiction of my statements of the week relative to the connection of Wilkins with the Packet.

When I spoke of the Editor—of course I could not mean the mere scissors and-paste man. I could allude to one but the controlling power. I wrote not of him—but of his master, and although I have ample information whereupon to ground an *exposé* of the individual who is shoved forward as the Editor, I shall allow myself to follow so blackguardly an example as that which he has set me.

As for Mr. Goddard, let him, if he can, deny an acquaintance with Wilkins—let him, if he dare, henceforth append the names of the authors of the articles published in his paper, to their productions.

Now, how long has the said Goddard been known to the People of Hull—that he should desire a monopoly of the Public attention, and deprecate the settlement of every other alien among the natives of this town? Did he ask permission? If he did, it was from the Tories—and if so, his contempt of the People is perfectly consistent with his dependance on their enemies. But is it essential to the circulation of his newspaper that he should countenance the insertion of such falsehoods as are embodied in the letter headed "Allusion of Steam Packets"—than which never was there a ranker specimen of wilful misrepresentation? He thinks so, what must be his own estimate of its merits and his character?

If the hundreds who witnessed the occurrence narrated, I could not imagine it possible that so lying a man could have been found; and I am not less astonished at the discovery of an Editor so credulous in a matter of general notoriety as to give such false publicity. But I live to learn—and I think I have discovered one source of his profits—the purses of sycophants and of Cheaters.

He will do well however to pause—ere it be too late—lest a disgusted and incensed public should—refuse him their perusal of his paltry Packet.

JAMES ACLAND.

MARKET TOLLS.

On Tuesday last I entered on the work of abolishing this impost. I seek its abolition because it is illegal: My reasons for believing that it is illegal are to be found in the opinions of Counsel, taken by the Corporators on a case drawn up by themselves—of course the best case, whether true or false, which they could make out.

These opinions state, in fact, that the Corporators cannot recover the tolls by legal proceedings against those who refuse to pay them; and hence the conclusion, that that which cannot be recovered by law, is illegal.

The scene in the Market-place on Tuesday was highly gratifying. Of the many who have all their lives paid these oppressive exactions, I believe there were but two, or at most three, who paid them with a knowledge that they were not bound to do so. The rest determined to abide the law and not to submit any longer to this imposition—until a Jury shall have decided on its legality.

I accompanied the Collector (Mr. Anthony) and his assistants, Messrs. Storey and Lee (constables) in their attempt to gather the Tolls. We were attended by hundreds, and but for me the three official agents of the Corporators would have been, in all probability abused and ill treated; but I felt that they ought not to be punished for the sins of their masters, and I deemed it my duty, at great personal sacrifice, to afford them my protection. Having finished their unsatisfactory tramp, Mr. Lee had the audacity to brandish his staff and to charge me with endeavouring to get him and his colleagues mobbed! The impudent liar! The ungrateful wretch! But his conduct is easily to be explained. He had laid a bet that he would have me

in gaol before night! No wonder then that he endeavoured to provoke me to a breach of the peace! Mr. Larard was near at the time, and this Lee charged him in the King's name to aid and assist in keeping the peace. Mr. Larard laughed, offered me his arm, and we walked on, leaving the officious constable to the gibes and jeers of the assembled people.

These Conspirators deceive themselves if they think I am such an ass as to throw away a chance of beating them on this important subject. The law is with us. We stand upon the legal point, and if there be a riot or a disturbance, it will be originated by those who are opposed to the law and who desire to rob the people, so long as they can frighten them into subjection.

But I charge those senseless individuals not to provoke the thousands they have wronged. I call upon them, as they value the peace of the town—and as they regard their own lives, not to attempt a resort to force by appealing to a power which is against the law, and which cannot be submitted to if illegally exercised. Let them remember that the people, however peaceable they may now be, would be dangerously excited by undue and unconstitutional violence—and I leave it to the consideration of the legal advisers of the Corporation, whether they had not better counsel an appeal to a Court of Law for the trial of this question, than a resort to the trial of strength by the few against the many.

The Case submitted to counsel can be sufficiently gathered from the references made thereto in the opinions given. That case concludes thus:

“YOU are therefore to peruse this case, and the documents left therewith, and to advise the corporation whether the Tolls above claimed or which of them can be recovered, and what are the best means for the corporation to pursue to recover the same from the persons who refuse to pay, or allow them to be taken.”

“If you should recommend the Tolls to be taken by force or distraint, (for either of which modes if practicable would be preferable to bringing an action,) please to say in what manner it should be done, the Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen being the only Justices of the Town, and forming a part of the Corporation which are entitled to the Tolls.”

THE FOLLOWING IS THE OPINION OF MR. BARON HULLOCK ON SUCH CASE:

I think the corporation will experience considerable difficulty in establishing a right to several of the Tolls alluded to. A right to Tolls can be claimed only by grant, or prescription which is founded on the presumption of a Grant. In the present Case no prescriptive right to any of the Tolls can be shown, as the Corporation itself was created within time of legal memory. With respect to the Market Tolls, Toll is not incident to a market or fair, but is against common right. But it is I apprehend competent for Rex granting a new fair or market to

grant reasonable Tolls. But in such case the grant of Toll must be express, and the grant of a fair or market “with all liberties and free customs to the like fairs and markets belonging will not be sufficient to confer a right to Toll.” (*See Holloway against Smith, 2nd Strange reports, 1171.*) The charter however of 40th Elizabeth seems to contain an express Grant of Market Tolls which although the charter does not express the precise Tolls to be taken, would I conceive warrant the Corporation in demanding reasonable sums for the Tolls on merchandize sold within the markets and fairs holden this day under the Charters. And I think if it can be shown by evidence that certain sums have been invariably received on the part of the Corporation on account of Market Tolls, for as far back as living memory can extend, such evidence might be sufficient to establish a right to those Tolls.

But it is observable that the charter of Elizabeth above referred to contains an express Grant only of Tolls of merchandize &c. sold and bought within the market and fairs. The right to take other Tolls therefore will depend upon a consideration of the effect of the usage which has prevailed with regard to their collection, and is, whether the exercise of the right of taking these Tolls for the number of years during which they have been actually received or collected be a sufficient evidence to warrant the presumption of a Grant of them to the Corporation.

As to the Tolls stated to have been taken in respect of Corn and Grain brought into the Town, and for Cart non-freemen coming into the Town—those Tolls seem to me to partake of the nature of “Toll-through” which is the claim of a sum for the passage through an highway and cannot be supported in point of Law without a consideration. It is stated that the Corporation contribute towards the repairs of the streets. If the Corporation should pave and repair all the streets of Hull, that might be a sufficient consideration, together with evidence of the actual collection of the Tolls last mentioned, for as far back as living memory can reach to warrant a presumption of a Grant of such Tolls; but, without such consideration I consider that the claim to these Tolls cannot be established. And the same observation is applicable to the Tolls claimed in respect of a passage over the North Bridge.

With respect to the claim of Toll of Corn transported from vessels directly into carts, without being first put upon the ground—it does not appear precisely at what place the vessels lie or are moored, from which at the time the corn is taken out of them. If the vessels were at the time moored within the port of Hull, and the Corporation have been used to repair the Port and the wharves thereof, and have also been used for as long as can be collected, to take a certain Toll in respect of corn brought into the Port and there landed, these circumstances might be sufficient grounds for the presumption of a right of such Tolls to the Corporation; but the facts as generally stated to enable me to form an opinion in favour of a claim to a Toll of Corn unladen immediately from

into Carts might be urged with a prospect of success. A very considerable difficulty will attend any attempt that may be made by the Corporation to establish their right to any of the above Tolls, arising from the very uncertain and irregular manner in which they appear to have been collected. The want of uniformity in the amount of the sums which have been collected from time to time, in respect of these Tolls will form a most important objection to the presumption of any Grant of Tolls.

Stallage is not properly speaking a Toll, nor is it necessary to make a title to it by Grant or prescription. Stallage is a compensation to the owner of the soil upon which a market is holden, for the privilege of placing a stall upon it, and the sum payable in respect of this privilege is the subject of agreement between the parties. And if the person place a stall in a market without a license or consent of the owner of the soil, an action of trespass *quam Clausum fregit* might be maintained by the owner against the Stall keeper for the trespass, because the erecting of a stall in a market is not a matter of common right.

The proper course of proceeding for the purpose of obtaining, or at least of obtaining a legal investigation of the right of the Corporation to the above Tolls seems to me to be by action against the individuals refusing to pay the Toll. Action will be preferable to a distress for the Tolls; as besides that it may be questionable whether a distress for the Tolls can be maintained without an immemorial custom to warrant it, that course of proceeding would subject the Corporation to an action of trespass, in the plea to which, it would be necessary to set out their right to the Tolls especially and particularly—whereas in the case of an action for the not paying of the Tolls, their claim to the Tolls might be stated in the declaration more generally than it could be done in a plea to an action of trespass.

JOHN HULLOCK.

Gray's Inn,

4th November, 1816.

THE FOLLOWING IS ALSO A COPY OF THE OPINION OF MR. S. SHEPHERD, THEN ATTORNEY GENERAL.

The present case presents difficulties that I know not how to surmount, because there does not appear to be any evidence of what were the ancient Tolls, and in what respect they are specifically claimed. The entries in the Corporation Books which at different times assert the right to Tolls, are not accompanied by any entry of any person, who has received such Tolls on the part of the Corporation, and therefore such entries of an assertion of right, unaccompanied by any circumstance to shew that they have been submitted to, are not admissible. To make out a right to Tolls, they must be shewn to be ancient and immemorial. Now in many cases the sums that have been taken, rather prove the reverse for the sum of four pence for a cart could hardly be an ancient Toll, as it must have been too large a sum at ancient times to have been the Toll. I really do not think the Corporation will be able to make out their title on the present statement, to any of the Tolls that are disputed, for with res-

pect to the Toll of corn there is no evidence of what quantity is to be taken for Toll in respect of what is brought in and sold, and the money payments do not appear to be ascertained with sufficient accuracy to enable the Corporation to establish their right.

I am of opinion also that the better mode of proceeding will be by action if the Corporation take any steps to assert their rights to the disputed Tolls. If they distrain they must distrain for the very Toll due, and if any action is brought against them they must set out upon the record their title to the Toll, and if there should be any irregularity in the mode of distraining they will fail in their defence. The best mode therefore of trying their right will be by action, but I have already said that I do not think they are in a situation to make out their title to the Tolls claimed.

JOHN SHEPHERD,

Dec. 24th, 1816.

TO THE PEOPLE OF HULL AND BARTON.

FRIENDS,—I am now straining every nerve to run the "Public Opinion," through the winter. Committees of "advice and assistance," are formed on either side of the Humber, and it is on their suggestion that I have determined on raising the charge of the after-cabin to sixpence, that of the fore-cabin remaining at fourpence. I beg further to inform you that the rent of the Packet has been reduced £6 per week, and that I have made an arrangement for obtaining a supply of coals, first hand, that is, better and cheaper. The alteration in the after-cabin fare will take place from this night.

Yours obliged,

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—By inserting the following lines in your Portfolio you will greatly oblige me. I have kept a Stand in Queen-Street for the last five years, and have never been molested during that time till Monday the 9th inst. I had it on that day, and paid for it as usual, and in the evening the Toll-Collector came and threw my Stall into the middle of the street, and on my reproving him for so doing he sent me to the House of Correction, where I remained till near two o'clock the next day, and then Mr. Lee told me I might be set at liberty if I could find bail for my appearance before the Mayor the next day:—so I got bail—and then he would not take it, but set me at liberty without it. Accordingly I went before the Mayor the following day, and the Mayor told me to come again the next day—I did as he ordered me—and when I went again he told me to go about my business; so that was all the satisfaction I got for my imprisonment. Should you think this worth inserting in your valuable publication, I am ready to prove the whole.

Exmouth-Buildings.

WILLIAM BUBB.

MEM:—*This is one of the grains in our bushel of wrongs. A man is ill treated by a creature of the Corporation and his property sacrificed. The ill-used man has the audacity to complain, he is imprisoned and afterwards set at large. He has the weakness to expect justice at the hands of the Corporators, and is disappointed. What of that? It is an every day occurrence, and need not excite our wonder, however it may arouse our indignation.* J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR.—As you very laudably think and reason for yourself, and regard not the unfounded assertions of any one, allow me to submit to your attention a few observations which contain some of the principal reasons for the religious observation of the Sunday as the Sabbath-day.

It is evident that the 7th day of the week was the Sabbath observed, by our Saviour and his disciples, until the day of Christ's resurrection; after which we find that they began to re-assemble on the first day of the week, which they called the Lord's day, in contradiction to the 7th which was observed by the Jews, and denominated the Sabbath. So the first day of the week was called the Lord's day, in memory of the resurrection of our Lord, (the triumphant confirmation of the Christian faith) whilst the seventh was merely denominated the Sabbath in memory of God's rest after the works of creation. Accordingly we find (John xx. 26.) that eight days after the day of resurrection the disciples were assembled together (an eight days is an idiom of the hebrew language always used to express a week, and seems to include as two distinct days both the day of the event, and the anniversary of it)—in a week then we see they were assembled together, to celebrate the joyful event and to keep the first Christian Sabbath.

Some other instances also occur in successive books of the new testament, of the first day of the week being religiously observed by Christians in preference to the seventh—of the observation of which we have no instance. Now, if we continue our enquiries from the sacred records into the most ancient ecclesiastical history, we find both from the works of the early fathers of the church (who lived almost contemporary with the apostles) and the testimony of Pliny, that the first day of the week was kept holy by the Christians, and in that day the simplicity of our holy religion was not corrupted, nor its name brought into contempt by base wolves and hirelings, who in this day devour the flock that they should feed. Now, it is not probable that in that day the early Christians would presume of their own accord to alter the usual day of the Sabbath. Therefore we may suppose that they had a command so to do, either from our Lord himself, or from the divinely inspired apostles, but most likely from the former, when he showed himself on the day of his resurrection to four different companies of the disciples.

We cannot actually determine that even the Sabbath day observed by the patriarchs was really the seventh day of the week, as reckoned from the beginning of the world—circumstances might easily occur which might disturb the calculation. It is also obvious that this question is of no importance, for one day considered in the abstract is not holier or better than another, a day being only a name for a division of time. All christians agree that the ceremonial law was abol-

ished when the great Anti-type offered up himself upon the cross. But the Sabbath belonging to an unalterable moral code remained unchanged, except in the Jewish and ceremonial observance of it.

Therefore we may say, that the first and not the seventh day is the Sabbath in all ages of the Christian Church, and though we might commit no sin in not changing it to the seventh, yet it is certain we should do no good. If we worship God acceptably on any day of the week, it is of little consequence whether that day be Saturday, Sunday, or Wednesday.

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

A REFORMER.

MEM:—I had not intended to have revived this subject; but in consequence of the daily receipt of letters from those who differ with me, I have selected the best and most argumentative of them for publication. Having done so I must take permission to offer what appears to me a sufficient answer to his assumptions and conclusions. A correspondent assumes that when the ceremonial law was abolished it became immaterial on what day the Sabbath should be observed, so that some one particular day should be set apart for that purpose. I ask then, whether the commandments of God constituted a portion of the ceremonial law. If they did, why are they read in our christian churches, and enforced by our christian ministers? If they did not, then are they as strictly obligatory upon Christians as upon Jews. "Thou shalt keep holy the seventh day," for "the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God" says the fourth commandment, "Keep the commandments" says our Saviour. Yet we are now to tell that we do so if we keep the first day holy! Is not this sophistry? and might we not, on the same ground deem ourselves equally justified in altering any other of the commands of God, as might best suit our purpose? "Thou shalt not steal" might, with the thief, admit of the interpretational addition of—"except after nightfall." short, where are we to stop, if once it be held by Christians that the express laws of God, may have been superseded without our having any record of that event,—a that therefore, we may cut and contrive them to our pleasure or advantage?

This controversy had its origin in the unchristian attacks of Christian Ministers upon me for breaking what they, as I think erroneously, call the Sabbath, by enabling the working classes to get fresh air on a Sunday at a third the cost of the same enjoyment to their richer town men. It is odious to contend that one shilling may purchase impunity, whilst fourpence may provoke condemnation, and although I do not charge this folly in terms against the ministers of our churches, I believe such to be the effect of their suddenly excited zeal in defence of the Sabbath which might have unobservedly been violated if an expence beyond the means of those who most need occasional recreation and re-invigoration.

J. A.

FALL TYRANTS FALL!

The trumpet of Liberty sounds through the world,
And the universe starts at the sound;
Her Standard, Philosophy's hand has unfurled;
And the Nations are thronging around.

How noble the ardour that seizes the soul!
How it bursts from the yoke and the chain?
What power can the fervor of Freedom control,
Or its terrible vengeance restrain?

Proud castles of despotism, dungeons and cells,
The tempest shall sweep you away;
From the East to the West the dread hurricane swells,
And the Tyrants are chill'd with dismay.

The Slave, on whose neck the proud despot has trod,
Now feels that himself is a man,
While the lordly Usurper who ruled with a nod
Hides his head 'midst his servile divan.

Poor Vassals who crawl by the Vistula's stream,
Hear! hear the glad call, and obey!
Rise, Nations who worship the Sun's sacred beam,
And drive your Pizarros away.

The cruel dominion of Priestcraft is o'er—
Its thunders, its faggots and chains!
Mankind will endure the vile bondage no more,
While Religion our Freedom maintains.

Shall Britons the charm of liberty hear
With a cold and insensible mind?
No: the triumphs of Freedom each Briton shall share,
And contend for the rights of Mankind!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

York, Oct. 14th, 1831.

SIR,—Some time since, I remember to have read, in a London Journal, a brief notice of a libel case, in which Mr. Jackson was defendant, and the Tax-Commissioners at Hull the prosecutors. The Editor of the paper spoke in terms of contempt and reprobation of the motives, by which the Commissioners were evidently actuated, remarking that after having dragged Mr. Jackson to York, they durst not allow the trial to proceed. Permit me to enquire, Sir, if this libel case could, by any possibility, grow out of the unjust and ILLEGAL demand made upon Mr. J. by the two commissioners as stated in a former number of your paper.

Whatever the libel was, it seems clear that the commissioners felt the truth of it, or why stop the case as soon as they found Mr. J. determined to defend and to prove the truths of his assertion, in open Court, before the assembled County of York. And here, as it is evident Mr. J. was ill-used, let me ask, what apology or compensation has he received, since it seems impossible that any gentlemen, after finding themselves misled, (for surely they must have been misled,) I say, it seems impossible that any gentlemen after finding themselves misled, could creep out of the prosecution, without making amends to the injured party. If the prosecutors have not made amends, I appeal not merely to the reformers of

Hull, but to every friend of law, and of social order which that town contains, to come forward with his mite to enable Mr. Jackson to recover damages, which no Court, either of Law or of Justice, could refuse. Let the supremacy of the law be vindicated. Let the tax-commissioners be taught, that neither aldermen, nor tax-commissioners, nor any other commissioners, are commissioned to MAKE the law let; them be taught that it is their duty to OBEY the law, and that they cannot with impunity extort a tax from any man, which the law has not authorised.

I remain, Sir,

Yours very respectfully,

JUSTICIA.

MEM :—*I have received and published this without the cognizance of the individual to whom it refers and shall be most happy to be made in any way instrumental to the attainment of the end proposed.*

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR.—In a small village not two miles from Hull called Stoneferry, a lady of the name of Watson. (in about the year 1721,) bequeathed at her death, seven small tenements, one tenement to each of her seven female heirs for ever, besides an annuity of money and corn, for the keeping the above named cottages in repair and paying the above annuity, besides five pounds per annum for teaching and educating ten poor children belonging the said parish, and she appointed 4 Clergymen as Trustees—one of which for the time being, is Mr. Bromby, the vicar of the Holy Trinity, and another of the Divines in Trust is the Rev. Mr. Baskett of the Charter House. The names of the other two Rev. Gentlemen, I don't know.

The said Lady, Mrs. Watson, left 3 Farms, comprising about 210 acres of Land, which let at that time for about five shillings per acre per annum, but at the present time, I should suppose it lets for not less than two pounds per acre per annum; but Sir what will your astonishment be, when I inform you, these Trustees not only suffered the cottages to go to decay, but no sooner did death mark one of these Heirs for his own, than the cottages were pulled down to circumvent the next Heir's claim, until only two remains, and those scarcely afford shelter to their inmates. In one or more instances when the occupant went to two of the Trustees, stating that her gabel end had blown down, the answer received from them was "you may repair the house yourself or quit," and instead of ten poor children being educated and books found them there is not one.

Your's respectfully,

X. Y. Z.

MEM :—*This communication will it is to be hoped elicit further information from either the one party or the other.*

J. A.

**A COPY OF THE CHARTER GRANTED BY
KING CHARLES THE SECOND TO THE
TOWN OF HULL, DATED THIRD OF
DECEMBER, ONE THOUSAND SIX HUN-
DRED AND SIXTY ONE.**

(Continued from page 102.)

AND FURTHERMORE, we will, and by these presents for us our heirs and successors do grant and declare, that we our heirs and successors from time to time, when, and as often as the place or office of High Steward of the Borough aforesaid by the death of the aforesaid George Duke of Albermarle, or any High Steward of the Town or Borough aforesaid hereafter to be named, constituted, or otherwise by any other manner shall be or become void, then, and so often we at the humble petition of the Mayor and Burgesses of that Town or Borough for the time being, to us our heirs and successors in this part to be exhibited, we will assign, name and constitute one other noble and discreet man of our Privy Council to be High Steward of that Town or Borough, and that every such like nobleman to that office so named and constituted respectively, be, and shall be High Steward of the same Town or Borough for and during his natural life, except in the mean time for any just and reasonable cause from that office by us our heirs and successors he shall be removed, of whom every or any in such and like causes we will be removeable. We have also given and granted, and by these presents for us our heirs and successors we do give and grant to the Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull aforesaid, and to their successors, that they and their successors for ever hereafter, may, and shall have in the Town and Borough aforesaid, one discreet man and skilful in the laws of England in form under in these presents mentioned, to be appointed and named, who shall be and shall be called the Recorder of the Town or Borough aforesaid: and we have assigned, named, constituted made, and by these presents for us our heirs and successors do assign, name and constitute, and make our well beloved William Lister Esq. learned in the laws of England, to be and is the first and present Recorder of that Town or Borough, who his Corporal Oath upon the Holy Gospel of God before the Mayor of the said Town or Borough for the time being, in the presence of the Aldermen of the Town or Borough for the time being, or the greater part of them, shall take, well and faithfully to execute the same office of Recorder of that Town or Borough, in all things touching that office, and that after that Oath so taken, he the said William Lister shall be and continue Recorder of the Town or Borough aforesaid, for, and during his natural life, except in the mean time for his evil carriage in that office, or any other reasonable cause, from thence he shall be removed by the Mayor and Aldermen of that Town or Borough for the time being, or the greater part of them; and to which

Mayor and Alderman of the said Town or Borough, and the greater part of them, in such and the like case or cases, we do give and grant by these presents full power and authority, as well the said William Lister as any other Recorder of the same Town or Borough for the time being, hereafter by force, or according to the tenor of these presents, to be named or appointed from such like office of Recorder of that Town or Borough totally to expel or amove. AND FURTHERMORE, we will by these presents for us our heirs and successors; do grant and declare, that we our heirs and successors from time to time, when, and as often as the place or office of Recorder of the same Town or Borough aforesaid, by the death of the aforesaid William Lister, or of any other Recorder of the same Borough; hereafter to be named and constituted, or otherwise by any other manner shall be or become void; then, and so often at the humble petition of the Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid for the time being, to us our heirs and successors in this part exhibited, we will, assign, name and constitute, one other discreet man, learned in the laws of England, to be Recorder of the same Town or Borough, and which learned man so named and constituted, and from time to time so to be named and constituted to that office, his Corporal Oath upon the Holy Gospel of God before the Mayor of that Town or Borough for the time being, in the presence of the Aldermen of that Town or Borough for the time being, or the greater part of them, shall take to execute that office in all things touching that office, and that after such Oath so taken, every such learned man to that office so named and constituted, or to be named and constituted, shall be and continue Recorder of that Town or Borough for and during his natural life respectively, excepting in the mean time for his evil carriage in that office, or for any other reasonable cause from thence he shall be removed. And further, we do grant and declare by these presents, that it is and shall be lawful, as well to the aforesaid William Lister, as to all and every other Recorder and Recorders of the Town or Borough aforesaid, hereafter in form aforesaid to be named and constituted, to have come, and make any other sufficient and discreet man learned in the Laws of England, to be his Deputy in the office of Recorder of that Town, or Borough; and we will that every such Deputy shall take the Corporal Oath before the Mayor of the Town or Borough aforesaid for the time being, well and faithfully to execute that office and place in all things according to the duty of that place in such manner and form as the aforesaid Recorder of the Town or Borough for the time being by virtue of these presents ought and is bound to perform his Oath and that any such Deputy so named and made in the absence of the Recorders may, and shall have full power and authority in all and singular things appertaining to the Office of Recorder of the said Town or Borough.

(To be continued.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

BARTON-ON-HUMBER, NOV. 1831.

SIR.—Through the medium of your valuable publication, I take the liberty of totally denying the charges made against me by a malicious and ill disposed person.

About 3 years ago my house was broken into and all the cash that I possessed was taken away by some person or persons unknown and my accuser a *bookkeeper* employed by the proprietors of the steam packet "Royal Cheater," asserts that I received the sum of £14 from certain individuals connected with the Methodist Society in this Town which I declare is a most abominable falsehood.

It is well known that since the opening of the Ferry between this place and Hull, this *busy man* with the assistance of *his bullies*, has done every thing in his power to prevent the landing of the passengers, from the Steam Packet "*Public Opinion*" but hitherto without effect.

I am a warm advocate for the "Public Opinion" and have assisted several times in the landing of passengers, and which is the sole reason why this contemptible fellow is so embittered against me.

Yours truly,

B. G.

MEM.—*Parkinson is beneath notice. He can pocket insults with the coolness of a coward, and offer them with the prudence of an assassin—behind back.* J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

HULL, Oct. 26; 1831.

SIR.—Your correspondent Mentor charges you with having attacked Mr. W. W. Bolton, on a subject "wholly and altogether devoid of Public interest." Is it then of no consequence to the public whether its servants are, or are not, men of honor and integrity—is it of no consequence whether they are, or are not, punctual in the discharge of their *moral* as well as legal obligations, for though the Statute of limitation deprives Mr. Leonard of the power of compelling payment, I think neither the Alderman, nor his friend Mentor will say, that the law can alter the justice of the claim which Mr. Leonard has upon his aldermanic debtor. If Mentor wanted a Steward, would he engage a man who had allowed his butcher's bill to remain unpaid for thirty years, would he confide the management of his estate to a man who had shown an utter contempt for morality in one of the commonest transactions of life, the contracting of a butcher's bill? Certainly not. Is it not then incumbent upon the people of Hull to choose men of fair fame, of unimpeached integrity, as their stewards, as guardians of their funds, which funds are placed in the hands of the Corporation, as trustees for the town.

In one of your Numbers you alluded to a sale of wood by one of the Hull Aldermen, in which the Alderman was said to have used his influence in the

Corporation in obtaining a higher price for his wood than it was really worth, under a promise that the Corporation would want wood, and that this wood should be re-bought by the corporation. Some ill-natured radicals say Mr. Bolton is the man who made this bargain. This I will not say, but I will say, that this bargain is of the same character, as his dealings with Mr. Leonard. However it is of little consequence to what Alderman the wood belonged; but I should like to know if Mentor would produce this bargain as a proof of his position, that the private conduct of a public man, is "wholly and altogether devoid of public interest;" would he produce this bargain as a proof, that there is no fear of the town's funds being sacrificed to the private, the pecuniary interests of selfish individuals.

This word sacrifice brings to my recollection an observation which Mr. Bolton is said to have made in some of his public babblings, viz. that he, Mr. B. would not sacrifice his principles to any man. Will this Alderman explain, what principles? What are his principles? Is it one of his principles to let his butcher's bill stand unpaid for thirty years, and still to refuse payment? Is it one of his principles to sell his lumber for more than it is worth, under a promise that it shall be rebought at the expense of funds which belong to the people of Hull. I ask, are these the principles, of which this worthy Alderman is said to have boasted? If these are not his principles, let him state what they are, and above all let his future conduct be regulated by the immutable, the eternal principles of Justice.

I remain, Sir,

Your's very respectfully,

PLEBS.

P.S. This man will not sacrifice his principles; no, not he indeed; but he would sacrifice the Portfolio, if he could do it with peevish exclamations or childish prating, for depend on it, you have touched this would-be great man, in a very sore place.

The Advertiser of yesterday publishes my answer to the low, vulgar and lying attack of the Packet and his friend coadjutor Mister Argus. I therefore expunge my previously written observations on his exparte publication of last week. The Packet will labor in vain to create a difference between me and those in whose service I am zealously engaged. The Corporation will labor in vain to incarcerate me in a gaol. The "Anti-Toll Association" will bid them defiance. The "Political Union" will laugh to scorn their efforts to excite disturbance. The "Ferry Monopolists" will be run hard the winter through. And, come when the election may, I shall be triumphantly returned to Parliament, the Representative of the People of Kingston-upon-Hull.

J. A.

I have received Mr. Miller's communication respecting the Dock Company, but have mislaid it. Can he oblige me with a second copy? If so it shall certainly appear in my next publication.

J. A.

The Trinity House coal-business, on Saturday next. J. A.

HULL CHARITIES. ACCOUNT OF LANDS BELONGING TO THE CHARTER HOUSE.

(Continued from page 104.)

MIDSUMMER AND CHRISTMAS RENTS.

	£.	s.	d.
Foster	25	0	0
Lison	30	0	0
Turner	60	0	0
Lundie	21	0	0
	136	0	0

LAMMAS AND CANDLEMAS RENTS.

Jackson	19	19	0
Wells	21	0	0
Pickering	49	10	0
William	52	10	0
N. Sykes	31	0	0
	173	19	0

CHIEF OR QUIT RENTS

Rev. R. Sykes	1	17	11
Thomas Temple	6	0	
T. Bradley Esq.	13	4	
J. R. Pease Esq.	1	2½	
Do Fishery	2	6	
Rev. R. Sykes at Michaelmas	12	0	
Green, Brough, and Todd	1	2½	
	3	14	2

Rent Roll £185 11 8

WEEKLY DISBURSEMENTS.

	£.	s.	d.
To 57 poor people 52 weeks at 6s.	569	4	0
To sweeper 52 do. at 5s.	13	0	0
Extra on the 19th July, by recommendation of the Bench	17	7	0
	919	11	0

Occasional Relief 15 0 0

INCIDENTAL CHARGES.

Insurance	11	18	1
Assessed Taxes	32	5	0
Coms.	121	13	3
Taxes	22	4	0
Water	10	10	0
Sand	1	5	0
Stamps	1	11	6
Tadman for paving	5	5	6
Webster upholsterer	8	15	3
Cottingham drain	5	0	8
Brushes	0	0	0
Allowed to Dunning for repairs	5	5	0
Corporation fee farm rent	2	10	0
Chimney sweeper	12	0	0
Miles, whitesmith	1	6	0
Lewis, painter	10	0	0
Cooper, joiner	15	7	0
Hessle drain	2	15	1
Jackson, bricklayer	68	13	0
Mrs. Hewitt, due to her late husband	12	4	0
James Glow, bricklayer	88	0	0

	£.	s.	d.
Kay, plumber	13	8	8
Bennison	1	4	0
Pullan, smith	16	8	
Mr. Young	51	2	0
Lamp-lighting	1	5	0
Neale, distributing coals and turves	17	0	
Do Clerk	1	1	0
Do. Porter	1	1	0
Do. Wilson distributing water	15	0	
Surplice washing	2	0	
	413	5	10

CONSTANT EXPENCES.

Master's salary	200	0	0
Water	1	0	0
Town's-husband	1	1	0
	202	1	0

ARREARS RECEIVED.

Mr. Green, half year to Michaelmas, 1820	59	0	0
J. R. Pease do. do.	21	5	0
A. Pickering do. do.	40	5	0
Foster do. do.	12	10	0
R. Pickering do. Candlemas, 1821	24	15	0
N. Sykes do. do.	15	10	0
Edward Lison do, Christmas, 1820	15	0	0

SUNDRIES RECEIVED.

Hessle Cliff, Walls and Cradock	100	0	0
Dach's dividend	38	16	0
Interest on £1750 consols	61	0	0
	199	16	0

ARREARS ALLOWED.

Mr. Green, half year to Lady-day, 1821	59	0	0
J. R. Pease, do. to Michaelmas	21	5	0
R. Pickering, do. to do.	40	5	0
Foster, do. to Christmas 1821	12	10	0
R. Pickering, do. to Candlemas 1822	24	15	0
N. Sykes, do. to do.	15	10	0
M. Green, do. to Michaelmas 1821	59	0	0
Do whole year for Ings Close to Martinmas, 1821	10	14	0
W. Green, half year to Candlemas last	26	5	0
	269	4	0

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Balance of last Year's account	1003	8	6	Weekly disbursements	919	11	0
Lady-day and Michaelmas Rents	752	5	0	Occasional Relief	15	0	0
May-day and Martinmas Rents	329	9	0	Incidental charges	413	5	10
Midsummer & Christmas Rents	130	0	0	Constant expences	202	1	0
Lammas and Candlemas Rents	173	19	0	Arrears allowed	269	4	0
Chief or Quit Rents	3	14	2	Balance	1052	17	4
Arrears received	159	5	0				
Sundries received	189	16	0				
	£2871	19	2		£2871	19	2

The Rev. K. B's accounts audited 14th June, 1822. &c.

The Rev. K. B. sworn to the truth of accounts, &c. by
before me (the Signatures of four Auditors,)

MASTER EXTRAORDINARY IN CHANCERY.

Bull Portfolio;

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES ACLAND.

“*Bonis nocet quisquis pepercerit malis.*”—CICERO.
HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY JAMES ACLAND, SOLE PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR, NO. 38, QUEEN-STREET, HULL.

Vol. 1.—No. 16.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1831.

Twopence.

TO THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF HULL.

SIRS.—There are some men whose mental powers are so singularly obtuse, that it is scarcely possible for them to think correctly, or to reason accurately. These are called fools, and are to be found chiefly in those hotbeds of ignorance and conceit where folly begets its kind, or where Aldermen manufacture Corporators.

Again, there are some men whose moral powers are so lamentably perverted, that knowing right from wrong, and being gifted with sufficient intelligence and judgment to enable them to perceive the course which they ought to pursue, yet elect the path of wrong, albeit of dishonesty, and prefer the perpetration of crime to the bestowal of justice. These are called rogues, and may reasonably be looked for among the fools on whom they prey, and without whom they would, of necessity, be honest and honorable men.

Now each of these descriptions of characters are capable of seeming to be other than they are, and are often made by circumstances to appear, the fools rational if not sensible beings, and the rogues honest men because necessarily undetected.

If you imagine that the two classes of beings of whom I am writing are separately distinct in their species, you will have to learn that they are but seldom unmixed and separate. The rogues are always foolish; and the fools are as frequently the agents or the instruments of roguery, as otherwise.

Your body many years since, abounded in both rogues and fools. You will probably ask me in what manner this circumstance can prejudice or affect you? Thus then it is. You are self elected Corporators—and it is not to be expected either that fools will covet association with wise men, or rogues with honest men. Donkeys beget not whelps, nor bitches foals—and it is out of all reason and most unnatural to suppose that fools and rogues will pick society for associators of opposite qualities of head and heart.

I say not that you are all fools: nor do I venture the assertion that there are no honest men among you—but, I judge by your acts—and on that judgment pro-

nounces that if the majority of you are not a rank compound of all that is ignorant and much that is roguish, I never was more deceived in my life.

You are notoriously guilty of imposition—and imposition is roguery. You are as notoriously guilty of the expectation that the thousands upon whom you shamelessly practise such impositions will tamely submit to your illegal exactions—and such expectation is the very height of folly. What character then can I, in justice, allot to you? In truth, you have so degraded yourselves in the estimation of the reasoning portion of the community that you no longer possess the influence which is essential to you in your magisterial capacities. You have the good opinion of yourselves alone—if you have even that—for, I cannot suppose you such egregious asses as to value yourselves or your conduct above the estimate which your consciences or your judgment may compel. And may I not acquit you of that gross stupidity which might be fairly imputed to you if one could imagine you to be capable of supposing that you possessed the favourable consideration of any beyond your influence and control?

You are magistrates; and it is of the first importance to your due discharge of the duties of your office that you command at least the respect of those who may have occasion to appeal to your magisterial wisdom, judgment, and discretion. When you cease to be respected, you cease to be competent for the highly responsible station which you occupy. Your appeal to the people would at this moment be absolutely futile. They would laugh at you—despise you—and I fear disobey you. It is difficult for them to imagine the possibility of your being right—so consistent have they found you in your enforcement of wrong.

When you took the opinion of counsel (in 1816) on the Market and other Tolls, you embodied in your case the following important statement:

“The Corporation have been for a number of years back (possibly as far as any one can recollect) in the receipt of certain Tolls and money payments in lieu thereof, for Corn and Grain brought into the town by persons not being free of the Town and for the Carts of such persons coming into the town with or without

goods therein, also for the carts kept in the town and used or employed therein, though the owners reside there, (if such owners be not free of the town,) and for divers goods and wares brought into the market for sale, also to divers payments for Stallage in the Market; but it does not appear by any of the charters, what the Tolls to which the Corporation are entitled, consist of, or what money payments are to be made in lieu thereof, nor does it appear by any entry or minute in the books of the Corporators, or any ancient documents amongst their records what ought to be taken for Toll, but as far as it can be traced out by living witnesses which perhaps may be for 30 or 40 years back, or longer, that the Toll-man or Market-keeper for the time being, as Lessee of the Tolls under the Corporation, has been in the habit of taking for the Toll of every cart coming into the Town, belonging to an unfree man &c. for every day it came into the Town, whether such cart had any goods in it or not. And it is supposed the like Tolls is due for every cart belonging to an unfree man residing in the Town, for every day such cart is used or employed in the Town; and it has been in some instances paid: but the Toll keeper has been in the habit of accepting a composition in lieu thereof of from 1s. to 2s. per quarter, as he and the cartmen could agree, and in several instances of accepting from the Brewers, Millers and Maltsters, different sums of money, quarterly by way of composition for the Toll of their carts, and for the Toll of all the corn they might receive into their stores during the quarter without distinguishing the proportion of either. From every bushel of corn or any sort of grain brought into the Town by an unfree man, the Toll keeper has taken one pint or a composition in lieu thereof as the parties could agree; and for poultry, eggs, butter &c., and other small things brought into the market, divers small pecuniary payments have been paid as a compensation for Toll, or a small portion of the last mentioned goods have been taken.

The Tolls have been let to different persons from time to time, by the general description of Tolls without enumerating any particulars. The Lessees have not been correct in taking the same Tolls as were taken by their predecessors, and to avoid trouble have sometimes taken anything they could get, so that the Tolls have not been uniformly the same, and there are now various disputes respecting them."

It hence appears that when you found it expedient to take the opinion of counsel on your right to the Tolls claimed by you, your own opinion on that point was far from favorable. Your then doubts must have been greatly strengthened by the subsequent information as to the law of the case, as given you by the learned gentlemen whom you consulted, and whose judgment on the matter was as decisive as ever was given by a counsel against his employers.

For a knowledge of these important opinions, the public are under no obligation to you. You were not

so foolish as to give them, publicity. You kept them as you thought, snugly and safely. You would not be guilty of the folly of an honest declaration that the Toll you had been collecting could not be enforced. You had long enjoyed your illegal gains,—and when you were doubly assured of their illegality, you concealed the fatal documents by which such assurance was induced, lest the poor market people and carriers should discover that you had robbed, and were still robbing them. This may be aldermanic honesty; but where then shall we seek for as rare a specimen of Aldermanic roguery?

Happily, however, the Anti-Toll opinions are dragged into the light, and the enlightened dupes determine no longer to submit to an extortion which the law does not sanction. They refuse payment of your illegal demand, and after a fortnight's modest hesitation on the course you ought to pursue, you instruct your Town Clerk to commence separate actions for trespass against fifty, sixty, or seventy individuals! How kindly considerate is your conduct! How pure and liberal your motives! How humane your treatment of these culpable wretches who have dared refuse any longer to allow your pickers and stealers admission to their pockets and purses!

The copy of the writ served upon me and others states the process to have issued on behalf of the Mayor and Burgesses. I thought such assertion a falsehood. I knew it to be so as regards the Burgesses, and I hoped it was so as regarded the Mayor. Hence gentlemen my visit to your chief magistrate yesterday—and when I confess my disappointment with reference to the result of that interview, I trust you will allow me shortly to explain the whys and the wherefores.

Our present Mayor is notoriously of weak mind, and I have been told on all hands that not having an opinion of his own, he always allowed somebody to lead him by the nose. I thought therefore that by mere possibility he might have fallen under the guidance of an individual capable of leading him in the path of rectitude and honor. But such of you as were present on the occasion to which I refer will recollect, that, for Mr. Raikes to have been led, by the nose yesterday, it must have been by Mr. Codd, who earwigged him into the extraordinary declaration that the writs were issued—mark Sirs, not at the instance of the Mayor and Burgesses as set forth in the documents themselves, but on behalf of the Mayor and Aldermen! Here then we have the Mayor and the Writs at direct variance. The one prates of the Mayor and Aldermen as though they constituted the Body Corporate; the other makes the Burgesses a party to the infamy of this Toll extortion when it is notorious that "No Tolls!" is as familiar in their mouths as household words. What a specimen of Majesterial wisdom!

The following document lies for signatures at Mr. Gresham's in Queen Street, and when the Burgesses of Hull, by whom only it can be signed, shall have done their duty, we shall see if the Mayor of Hull will equally fulfil his obligations to himself, to the laws, and to the Society.

TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR.

"We the undersigned Burgesses of Kingston-upon-Hull, anxious that you should ascertain the legality of the rate of Tolls you have been accustomed to levy, cannot but regret that you should have been so ill advised as to increase the popular excitement and unnecessarily waste our funds, by serving more Copies of Writs than is required to bring the dispute into a Court of Justice---earnestly beseech your Worship to instruct the Town Clerk to withdraw all Copies of Writs which have been wantonly served and which are calculated only to disturb the peace of the town and dissipate our funds."

The Anti-Toll Association now embraces upwards of three hundred members---and these can raise a purse of some amount, although not equal to that of the immense costs of so extravagant a discription of litigation. But Sirs, think you the Public will stand tamely by and see you triumphant? No! they will not so far sanction the spirit of persecution which actuates you. An appeal will be made to them on Monday next; parties of Committee-men will go their respective rounds through the town and its suburbs, and if I do not deceive myself, you will find you have deceived yourselves in your estimate of the public spirit of your fellow townsmen. Perhaps you will call this begging. Be it so; you cannot call it stealing---and it is far better to beg for the necessary means of purchasing justice than to issue writs by the scores, to enforce an unrighteous tax from poor people for the aggrandisement or sensual gratification of such men as yourselves. Yet you send beggars to gaol and then---with great self-satisfaction and an inordinate appetite you sit down to a dinner of luxury and waste! But you are Aldermen---save one, and he bids fair to become one in due course of preferment---if he minds what his feeders tell him and learns his lesson with his book wrong side upwards---spelling, as the devil of old was wont to do, backwards. Let him take my advice for once and fag hard or the school will break up ere the task be accomplished; for I opine that the present Mayor will not be an Alderman before the present Aldermen are kicked out of office by the recal of the Charters they have abused in their perversion of the powers given them for good to the purposes of evil.

You gentlemen are doing all that in you lies to Bristolize Hull; but you shall be deceived. The massacre in Bristol would have been prevented, if the people had possessed a leader in whom they reposed implicit confidence. Would to God I had been there---for I firmly believe in such case no life would have been sacrificed. The Political Judge and Parliamentary liar might have been soured in the stinking waters of the float and some few of the Aldermen might have been frightened into hysterics---but these would have been mere trifles and such would have been the extent of the evil.

I think I may safely predict that you never shall have an excuse for ordering your townsmen to be shot like dogs. I think I may pledge all that is dear to me that the People of Hull will obey the laws---maintain peace---respect property---and withstand all the provocations you can offer to violence and outrage. No, Sirs, they do place an honourable confidence in me. They do believe

that I advise them for their good. They feel assured that I neither lack prudence nor boldness. They will act as men and rational beings. They will listen to the voice of reason. They will not be driven to desperation and to ruin by aught you can perpetrate against them. Hull shall not be Bristolized by you---and it is I who tell you so---despite your lawlessness---despite your six hundred new bludgeons and without fear of any six thousand special constables whom in your wisdom you may think it needful or expedient to have sworn in.

Beat you we assuredly will---not with bludgeons, for they are sorry arguments, but by a demonstration of your folly and an exposure of your ignorance. We will laugh at you whilst we beat you, for by your actions you proclaim that you will be beat, and it were great pity that you should be disappointed, the which shall not, at all events, be attributable to

Your faithful Monitor, JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE PEOPLE OF HULL AND BARTON.

FRIENDS,

The Lessees of the Ferry are endeavouring to re-establish their monopoly by indirect means. They must be beaten, and by you, for this is a great public question, and the expense of the defence of your rights must not be allowed to fall on individuals.

In the first place, you must associate in defence of yourselves and raise a fund for the necessary legal expenses of the proceedings which the monopolists have originated. For, although I have not the most remote idea of their persisting in their present pretended determination to bring the question to trial, yet prudence demands, that should they be guilty of such presumption we should be well prepared to teach them the wisdom of honesty, and the folly of imposition.

In the second place, Public Opinion must be kept afloat. The schemes to put me down, are as manifold as they are mean. But they must fail if you are true to your own interests. I trust I shall be enabled to run through the winter. Many of my warm supporters have greatly interested themselves on this subject, the loss weekly being very considerable for the ensuing five months, and principles of honour and justice demanding that I should not deliver over my public spirited passengers to the tender mercies of the Ferry Monopolists during that period.

The means of securing the triumph of the people over their oppressors will, as I understand be provided, by certain liberal minded individuals who have taken the business in hand, who have constituted themselves a Committee for keeping Public Opinion afloat until May, and to whose kind exertions I hereby give my full and unconditional sanction, by whatever means they may think it most prudent and most just to seek the attainment of the object they have in view. The system suggested is one of loan---by small sums. The amount required will be ascertained by the Committee. Engraved notes of 1s. each will be issued, which, among the enemies of Monopoly, will circulate for their full value, until, the end attained, they be recalled. JAMES ACLAND.

CHARITIES OF THE GUILD, OR FRATERNITY OF THE TRINITY HOUSE OF KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.

(Continued from page 116.)

The particulars and rental of this estate are given in the appendix. The annual amount of the rent at present is £1881. 1s.

3rd. A house and shop in Lowgate, Hull, let to Heary Brown as yearly tenant at £53. per annum.

A farm in the parish of North Ferriby, comprising a house, buildings, and 72 acres (or thereabouts) of land, all, except the homestead, in the open fields of Swanland, let to Stephen Grey, on lease for seven years from Lady-day 1816, at £59. per annum.

Two small slips of land at Ferriby, of a few yards each, let for accommodation, under the yearly rents or acknowledgement of 15s. and £1. 11. 6. respectively.

This property was conveyed by indentures of lease and re lease, dated the 13th December 1698, by Thomas Watson, Bishop of Saint Davids, to trustees in trust for certain persons therein named for their lives; and after their decease to the use of the Guild or Brotherhood of masters and pilots, seamen of the Trinity House of Kingston-upon-Hull, and their successors for the better maintenance, and subsistence of the poor belonging to the said house for ever.

4th. An estate consisting of three closes, containing in the whole 24a. 1r. 26p. at Thorpe Brantingham, in the county of York, let to George Atmar, on lease for 11 years, from 5th of April 823, at the yearly rent of £37. 7s. per annum.

These closes were awarded, on an inclosure, in lieu of certain open field lands in Thorpe Brantingham, purchased with the sum of £345. and conveyed to the Corporation of the Trinity House by indentures of the 22nd. and 23rd. of October. 1724. The sum of £300. part of the purchase money, was a legacy, given by William Watson, who by will, dated 28th October, bequeathed to the Corporation, by the discriptions of the Wardens and Trustees of Trinity House in Hull, £300. to be laid out in the purchase of lands, the rents thereof to be applied to the maintenance and support of the poor people inhabiting for the time being, in the seven rooms reserved or belonging to him in the Hospital built by his late brother Bishop Watson and to no other inhabitants of the said Hospital: and he thereby directed the said Wardens and Trustees and their successors, to place such inhabitants in the said rooms, as should be known to be well affected to the Church of England, who should be obliged constantly to attend Trinity Church in Hull.

Though it mentioned in the Will that seven rooms in the Hospital were reserved by the testator's brother Bishop Watson, there were in fact six rooms only reserved by him, and accordingly stipends have been paid to six persons only in the Hospital by the Corporation.

5th, An annuity of £40. granted by indenture, dated the 13th July 1678, whereby, after reciting that King Charles the Second, by letters patent, dated 25th October. in the 29th year of his reign, granted unto Justenian Angel, in full power to maintain a Lighthouse upon the Spurn Point. for the benefit of navigators and their safety upon that coast, with a premium to the said Justenian Angel and his heirs, for every ship passing the said Lighthouse, and having benefit thereby of one farthing per ton, under the rent of £5. per annum to his Majesty, and that the said duty had been increased by letters patent of the 14th June, 14th of Charles the Second, by an additional premium of one farthing per ton more, for all English ships or vessels passing as aforesaid: and also the sum of one penny for all foreign vessels, yielding to his Majesty the yearly sum of £5. the said Justenian Angel granted unto Edward Hodgson and certain other trustees, an annuity or yearly rent of £40. issueable out of the piece of ground called the Spurn Point, at the mouth of the Humber, and out of the said several sums and premiums granted as above, and other issues and profits to arise to him or his heirs by the said letters patent, over and above the charges of maintaining the said Lighthouse of Kingston-upon-Hull, on the 25th of December, and 24th of June, by equal portions with power of distress, and it was in the said indenture declared that such Grant was made by the said Justenian Angel, for the better maintenance of the poor decayed seamen or their widows, belonging to the said Guild or Brotherhood and successors, and towards the better maintenance and subsistence of the said poor.

This annuity was assigned by the trustees thereof to the Guild or Brotherhood of the Trinity House and their successors, by indenture of the 10th February 1692, to the use aforesaid; and it is regularly received from the Comptroller of the customs, as agent for the proprietors of the Lighthouse.

6th. An annual sum of 2s. part of a yearly rent-charge of 3s. issuing out of certain premises at the end of Hall's Entry, in the High-street, Hull, late the property of John Wray, Esq. deceased, and which rent-charge was granted by indenture, dated the 23rd of November 1599, by William Porter, to the Guild or Fraternity of the Trinity House, 2s. thereof to be paid yearly to the poor people of the Trinity House, Maison Dieu, in Kingston-upon-Hull, therewith to make merry, and 12d. to the Churchwardens of Trinity Church, towards maintaining a glass window in the chancel of the said church, being the first window in the north aisle.

This yearly sum of 2s. is received regularly, and carried to the general amount.

7th. An ancient annual rent-charge of 5s. a year out of property belonging to the heirs of John Caddy, of which the origin is unknown.

The several estates above mentioned are let at their annual value, and on the best terms that can be procured.

The Corporation of the Trinity House are also in the receipt of the duty of 6d. per month on seamen's wages, under the 29th, section of the Act of the 20th George the Second, c. 33. "for the relief and support of maimed, and disabled seamen, and the widows and children of such as shall be killed, slain or drowned in the merchants service." This annual fund (of which a separate account is kept) is applied to support the poor in the Merchant Seamen's Hospital, and for such other charitable relief as is mentioned in the Act of Parliament; it being generally insufficient for the purpose, the deficiency is made good, out of the general revenues of the Corporation.

The annual receipts arising from the several sources of property above described, are of necessity very variable in amount; but on an average taken for ten years, ending in September 1822, the produce may be stated to be at the rate of £5913. 3s. 11d. per annum. A table is given in the Appendix, representing in detail the average income arising from each kind of property including the Merchant Seamen's fund or duty of 6d. per month.

(To be continued.)

PUBLIC PARDON ASKED.

WHEREAS, I the undersigned as Foreman to the Lessees of the Barton Ferry, under the Hull Corruption, for a long time past has been accustomed (by the aid of special constables and other illegal means) to enforce the extortionate charge of one shilling, not only in the old Hov, but also in the Corrupt Cheater, for the passage across the Humber, do hereby give Notice of submission to *Public Opinion*, and now ask pardon for my late atrocities, and to prove my sincere repentance have come to the resolution of running the *Coronation Cheating Pig Boat*, at the *Penny Hum-bug Trap*, for no fare at all, and by so doing balance the pockets of the Public, and in a great number of years, the people will then be in possession of their rights and privileges, and my conscience be acquitted and cleared washed of the weight of folly committed by my obstinacy in unlawfully resisting

PUBLIC OPINION,

and in case of forgiveness, I do hereby further promise neither to jump into the water up to my knees, or oppose the landing of passengers; that I will not again chop up the petty, nor erect any more Gibbets; that I will not perpetrate Dinsdale's abusive language; that I will not threaten any more actions for trespass (as I have no law to maintain them,) that I will not throw any more Gigs overboard, (and that I am sincere in what I promise, my letter and acknowledgment of error to the owner of the carriage so served will prove,) and lastly that I will stand, abet and encourage Rhodes, in wilfully running a Packet, into the opposition. (because my masters will

have to pay for that Freak to some Tune,) as I fear by such conduct we shall be both unshipped.

Signed by

SOLOMON PARTINGTON.

(Son of the well known Dame Partington.)

MEM:—For my part I accept this apology for so long as it may be abided by. As for Mr. Walkden's conduct, let his grateful returns of the kindness received by him from his former patrons, be sought in those vexatious writs which he well knows cannot be justified by the verdict of a Jury, or even by the carrying of his actions into a Court of Law. Ingratitude is the basest of crimes: it can originate only in a bad heart, and reduces the prettiest spoken gentleman, far below the level of the rough spun mechanic. Let Mr. Walkden reflect on this,—and let him persist in his paltry proceedings at law if he will. I envy not his feelings, and believe he will shortly have occasion to lament his pursuit of a course which has estranged more of his former friends than fifty opposition packets could have done, if they had run for nothing. for fifty years.

J. A.

THE GATHERING OF THE HULL UNION.

OVER mountain, over plain,
Echoing wide from sea to sea,
Peals, and shall not peal in vain,
The trumpet call of liberty!
Britain's guardian spirit cries,
Britons awake, awake, arise!

Sleep no more the sleep of shame,
Awake and break oppression's chain;
Lull'd by Freedom's empty name,
Worse than slaves no more remain;
Freedom's rights and Freedom's name
Learn to know and dare to claim.

Shall honest labour toil in vain,
While plunderers fatten through the land?
Still shall a tyrant faction reign,
People and King at once command?
No! it may not, shall not be,
For we must—we will be free.

Will you still sleep, while, one by one,
Each sacred dear-bought right is lost;
Rights which your fathers' broadswords won,
Rights which your fathers' life-blood cost
No! it may not, shall not be,
For we must, we will be free.

See, rises from his bed of fame,
Each chief of glorious Runnymede;
With Hampden! (history's nob est name)
They call us at our country's need.
They call—and can we heedless be?
No! we must—we will be free.

Put not to war and blood they call,
They bid us lift nor sword nor gun;
I acclui, but firm, join one and all,
To claim our rights, and they are won
The French Lion's voice alone,
Shall guard for Britain and her own.

(The whole of the three following Stanzas form a Grand Chorus.)

Lo! we answer! See we come,
Quick at Freedom's holy call;
We come! we come! we come! we come
To do the glorious work of all.
And hark we raise from sea to sea,
The sacred watch word "Liberty!"

God is our guide!—from field, from wave,
From plough, from anvil, and from loom,
We come, our country's rights to save,
And speak a tyrant faction's doom.
And hark! we raise, from sea to sea,
The sacred watch word, "Liberty!"

God is our guide! no words we draw,
We kindle not war's battle fires;
By Union, Justice, Reason, Law,
We claim the birth-right of our sires.
We raise the watchword "Liberty,
We will, we will, we will be Free!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,---When I last addressed you, I thought I had exhausted the subject which called for it, and it would not be necessary for me again to trouble you. Ere I had parted with the humble production, however I found it indispensable that I should do so; and hence arose the postscript to my letter, and if nothing more had occurred to require it, one proceeding of Solomon's which I had omitted to mention would have been sufficient.---Great events however have since occurred, which in most cases would have been sufficient to absorb every other consideration, but in this instance it is proper that the Public should be fully acquainted with the grave proceedings of this notable Wiseacre. I have therefore briefly to tell them that amongst the vagaries and fantasies previously enumerated he had begun to imagine himself not only Lord of the Monopolist Ferry over the Humber, but also the Monopolist of all the good sense and wisdom of the Nation. Accordingly he has been writing long letters to some masters, and accosting others telling them that they did not know the value of their servants, that a six years service in one case, and twenty years in another was of no moment whatever, they were utterly ignorant and simple of judging, and that his views and wishes should be carried into effect; it was indispensable that their servant should be discarded, that he merely threw the Clergyman's Gig overboard, in token of this opinion, and that they would assuredly lead him right. The letter announcing this fact consisted of three sides of a sheet of paper, and written across. Such were the pains which this creature took to enforce his view of the subject. The gentleman to whom it was addressed however was not to be overcome, and here again fails poor Solomon; he is put where he was, and always will be, (unless he profits by experience,) an age behind the rest of mankind; and I am almost afraid I have wasted more pains upon him than he is worth.

I must now turn to matters of greater moment. On Friday last, it was publicly announced that Writs for a Trespass were served upon three different individuals, two upon each, one at the suit of Mr Walkden himself, and another at the suit of Dring and Colleagues the Coach Proprietor and the Lessees of the Ferry and the service of these (at least the majority) accords with their whole proceedings neither courtesy nor consideration being exercised towards any of the party. One gentleman has been singled out whom of all others they ought to have left unmolested. A better friend they never had, or one more warmly disposed towards them; but like many others he was

driven from their packet, by the blind and uncompromising conduct of Parkinson, and those who abet him, and Ruffian like they served their Writs, (upon this gentleman at least,) without any intimation beforehand of their intentions, or any of those common acts of courtesy, which pass between one gentleman and another. Here then comes Mr. Walkden himself on the stage, and let him justify his conduct to the world;---here he cannot get under the petticoat of Solomon, he must be a party to this proceeding, and let him be answerable for it,---it is one other step which he and his party have made towards trying that great question, which now agitates the public mind of Hull and of Barton, and like all others that have preceded it---it can only tend to plunge themselves further in the mire. Why do they not come to the main question at once---they have Right or they have not, and let that be duly tried and disposed of---it is a duty they owe to themselves and to the Public,---and on this part of the subject, I perfectly agree with the Editor of the Rockingham who put forth some excellent remarks upon it, in his last week's publication. But no, what care we for the public, say they, so that we carry our ends. The public is of no avail, they may do as they like, we are and have been monopolists, and monopolists we and those who don't come into our measures or think with us, we will harass and oppress. Thus fools as they are, they despise that which alone can sustain them, I mean Public Opinion, and like an old Mill Horse, which has been doomed to one accustomed round, day by day and year by year, they cannot look forwards for a moment.---No, no,---we are the Lords, we are the Governors, and the Governor shall submit to us, be our measures ever so unreasonable. They cannot see the propriety of a person preferring to pay fourpence, or sixpence in place of a shilling, with equal comfort and more civility with the former than the latter; that they don't think offer a moment; it is their will that the public should go by their Packet, and at such fares as they chose to exact, and their will in their view must be obeyed. They however cannot enforce it, and here arise all the petty acts of these tyrants. Distinctions are made in society which were never intended to exist, and neighbour is set against neighbour, solely because they think proper to refuse an act of justice and propriety! Their common cry now is that none go to Public Opinion who are in any way respectable, and to sustain this distinction which is of their own creating, you now and then see a half starved Curate, or an old worn out Anti-reformer paying this sixpence as the price of such a character; at another time you meet a man who attempts a stand against Public Opinion, and seeks to justify such resistance on the part of the Lessees, upon every unreasonable ground, but the instances are rare, and where any thing like discussion can be had, and freedom of speech secured, defeat is certain to be sooner accomplished. In reference to these writs, the other day a certain gentleman was heard to say, a breeder of rare at no great distance from this place, that he thought the people who had got any wool on their backs (a notable remark certainly coming from such a source) would be very careful but they went with the Public Opinion. Now this is the very feeling that these Conservatives of the Humber wish to create;---the service of these Writs is of with a piece all their other proceedings; intimidation is their object, and Solomon himself observed on Friday last, (which justifies one in thinking so,) that the Writs had done good already, as he was certain several people went with their Packet that morning, who would not have done so had they not been afraid. Here then you have the secret, least I think so; but Mr. Walkden has asserted that it is his intention to prosecute his actions; let him do so, if he is injured his property, let him prove it, and let him defend it by all means he is justified in doing so; but where is the injury imagined

think it cannot consist in the destruction of his Fences or his Herbage, for there is neither one nor the other on the spot where he affects to have private property; it has been a public road for ages, and is now maintained and kept up by the public, and it rests with him in this enlightened era to prove public property private. He may, however (such is the glorious uncertainty, and, as he rests his dependance on a few yards of land at the top of the jetty, at Barton) accomplish this, and in case he succeeds it will behave every one interested to consider, of what description the jetty itself is. I have no hesitation in saying, that the moment it becomes private property, it becomes a public nuisance, and has only hitherto been tolerated, because a public convenience. Great damages have arisen from it, and take it from the public, and then see what the public will make of it. There is no other subject worthy of consideration; these conservatives are not only conservators of the Hamber, but they are also conservators of the high road to London! Would it not be well to consider how far public Opinion can be extended? At present it is confined to the Hamber. Let it branch out, and let the Sage at Spital understand that the period is probably not far distant, when he will be called upon to sell his corn, buy fresh horses, and mount his red coated trumpeter, in the place of a guard, as he has promised to do. In the mean time, Counselor's Opinion is taking on the new question of Mr. Walkden's, and as soon as this has been obtained, it would be well that the public should be consulted thereon. A public meeting must be held, and proper steps taken for a good and sufficient defence. In this I think you will agree with me, and for the present I remain,

As before,

A VICTIM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—On passing through the market this morning, I perceived a number of papers pinned to the Crowns of the Corporation. On enquiring, I was informed that they were Copies of Writs, served upon the persons who had refused to pay Toll, and as the question of right is likely now to be tried, I think it my duty to give you all the information in my power. I first commenced to stand with a stall of my own in the market in the year 1804. Mr. Brown was the Collector of the Tolls, and all the time that he collected the Tolls, I was charged 2d. per day 2 days a week, and if I did not stand out, I did not pay. When he gave up collecting, one Thos. West was appointed by the Corporation, and the first week that he collected he paid him 2d. per day; the second week West advanced me Tolls to 4d. per day, which I resisted and would not pay; he then said to me if I would not pay what he demanded he would shift me about from one end of the market place to the other, which he did for several market days. The place that I had occupied was vacant and I moved my stall into the place that I had been accustomed to stand in for several years, and I told him that it was only his malice and I would not be shifted. West then summoned me before the Magistrates, because I refused to pay him the advanced Toll. When I had stated my reply to the Magistrates on this charge, Mr. Joseph Egginton and Edward F. Coulson the sitting Magistrates after they had consulted with Edward Codd, the then Town Clerk and George Bromwal the Deputy Clerk, told me that they had appointed West to be the market-keeper, and I must either pay the demand, or he could shift me about as they must support their servant. I was

therefore compelled to submit to their illegal demand, or be moved about from one end of the market place to the other. Therefore from that time instead of paying 4d. per week, I had to pay one shilling per week, which sum I paid for more than twelve years, whether I was in the market or no. If from any illness or other cause I was prevented from attending in the market, the first time I attended he always made me pay Toll for all the days that I had not been there.

W. T.

P. S. As the legality of the charge of Tolls, is to be put to the issue, I am ready to come forward, and prove the above statement at any time you may need my testimony.

MEM.—*I have forwarded my Correspondent's real name and address, with the substance of the evidence he tenders, to the Solicitor of the Anti-Toll Association.* J. A.

TO THE PEOPLE OF HULL AND SCULCOATES.

FRIENDS.—Your Political Union is established. Upwards of a hundred and seventy members have enrolled themselves. They have elected their officers for the ensuing year. At the general meeting of Thursday last it was resolved unanimously:—

“That as in the enforcement of right principles there can be no occasion for secrecy, the reporters of the Press shall be entitled to attend the proceedings of the Union at all general meetings; and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Secretary to the Editors of the Hull papers and of such as may be published within the circuit of fifty miles from the Town.”

On the same occasion, I gave notice of my intention of calling upon the Council to convene another meeting of the Union within a week, for the consideration of the present disturbed state of the Town—of the conduct of the magistracy—and of the measures necessary to be adopted for redressing the wrongs of the people without endangering the peace of the district. JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ANTI-TOLL ASSOCIATION.

FRIENDS.—*As the Corporators manifest increased determination to subject you to illegal local taxation, the advocates of justice evince also an increased determination to see that you have fair play. Shew your fellow townsmen that you are ready to put your shoulders to the wheel and they will aid you in your laudable endeavour to put down the Corporate extortions. I was highly gratified last night at a meeting of the members to witness the prompt alacrity with which they opened their first list of voluntary contributions. Between eleven and twelve pounds were raised in very few minutes, and if I do not greatly mistake, this demonstration of earnestness on your part will secure to you the liberal co-operation of the upper classes of the community.* JAMES ACLAND.

A COPY OF THE CHARTER CRANTED BY KING CHARLES THE SECOND TO THE TOWN OF HULL, DATED THIRD OF DECEMBER, ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY ONE.

(Continued from page 120.)

AND FURTHERMORE, we will and by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors do ordain, and firmly enjoining do command that the Mayor and Aldermen of the Town or Borough aforesaid, the Recorder and Common Clerk, and all other officers and ministers of that Borough and their Deputies; and moreover all Justices to keep the Peace of us our Heirs and Successors within that Borough, in or by these Letters Patent, now named, appointed or instituted, or by virtue or according to the tenor of the same our Letters Patent hereafter to be made, chosen or constituted before that they to the exemptions or exercise to the office or offices, place or places, to which so as aforesaid respectively named, appointed or constituted to administer, or any of them to administer, in this part they do meddle, as well the corporal Oath in England commonly called the Oath of Obedience, as the corporal Oath in England commonly called the Oath of Supremacy, upon the Holy Gospel of God they shall take, and every of them shall take before said persons as, and which to give and administer the like Oath by the Laws and Statutes of this our Realm of England at this present are appointed and designed. We have also given and granted, and by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors we do give and grant to the aforesaid Mayor and Burgesses of the aforesaid Town of Kingston-upon-Hull and to their Successors, that they and their Successors for the time being from time to time may and shall be able to chuse, make, constitute and appoint an Escheater and so many and such Sergeant at Mace and other Officers whatsoever which to the said Mayor and Burgesses shall seem to be most necessary and convenient for the better service and common profit of the Town and Borough aforesaid and which heretofore in the same Town or Borough they were wont to chuse appoint and make and which Officers as elected and appointed their Officers respectively they shall do and execute and to the due execution thereof to be done they shall take their Corporal Oath upon the Holy Gospel of God in the same manner and form as heretofore they have lawfully done and executed. And whereas Lord Edward the first (sometime King of England) our Progenitor, by Letters Patent, under the Great Seal of England made bearing date at Westminster the first day of April, in the twenty-seventh year of his Reign, amongst other things granted then to the Burgesses of Kingston-upon-Hull, that they and their Heirs for ever should have two Markets every week within the Borough aforesaid, in the place by the aforesaid King deputed to be holden,

(to wit) one on Tuesday and the other on Friday; and one Fair there every year to endure for thirty days, (to wit) on the day of St. Austin after Easter, and on twenty-nine days next following, except those Markets and those Fairs shall be to the hurt of the neighbouring Markets and neighbouring Fairs, as by the said Letters Patent amongst other things it may more fully appear; and which Markets and Fairs the same Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid, to Lady Elizabeth Queen of England, and to her Heirs and Successors declared and granted, and by their writing into her Chancery, there duly in the same enrolled, notwithstanding with that intention that the said Queen, other her Letters Patent, and other her Grants to the Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough of Hull aforesaid, would vouchsafe to make and grant; and which surrender the said late Queen did accept and approve. And the said late Queen by her Letters Patent under the Great Seal of England bearing date the nineteenth day of August, in the fortieth year of her Reign, of her special grace, and of her certain knowledge and mere motion, for her Heirs and Successors, gave and granted to the aforesaid Mayor and Burgesses, their Heirs and Successors, that they and their Successors for ever after should have and hold and should and might be able to have and hold within the same Town of Kingston-upon-Hull, two Markets in every week, in any convenient place within the said Town or Borough, by the Mayor and the greater part of the Aldermen of the Town or Borough aforesaid for the time being, to be appointed (to wit) one Market every week upon Tuesday, and another upon Friday, to be holden and kept.

(To be continued.)

MEM.—The exposé of the "Parishoner of Sculcoates" is received, and shall have early insertion. There seems to be much imposition in that quarter. Do not many of the Hull Aldermen reside there?

Correspondents are informed that there is now a letter box, in the window of my office in Queen-street. There is also a comfortable waiting-room up the adjoining entrance, for passengers awaiting the arrival or departure of the "Public Opinion" steam packet for Barton,—and an office and warehouse for the reception and safe custody of luggage of every description.

MEM.—I have received a letter calling my attention to the Toll, at the half-penny hatch between New George street, and Scott-street in Sculcoates. This appears to me, as at present informed, to be private property; and the toll to be matter of private arrangement for personal convenience and accommodation. If I am wrong, let me have further information.

Printed and Published by JAMES ACLAND, sole Proprietor, and Editor No. 38, Queen-Street, Hull.

Hull Portfolio;

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES ACLAND.

"*Bonis nocet quisquis pepercit malis.*"—CICERO.
HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY JAMES ACLAND, SOLE PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR, NO. 38, QUEEN-STREET, HULL.

Vol. 1.—No. 15.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1831.

Twopence.

WASTE OF CHARITABLE FUNDS.

A complaint has been lodged with me respecting an alleged peculation by a servant of a public body and that of a Charity. The case has been investigated by me, and I cannot but express my decided conviction that the action is highly censurable. If the respectable robbers of Charities—that is the nob offenders, allot to an inferior officer a certain quantity of coal, candles, or soap, for his annual consumption, and if such quantity be more than enough for his use as an officer of a charitable institution, he has no right to sell or give away the surplus—and if he remove such surplus in the night to the residence of his son, I think it would look as if he entertained a similar opinion.

But the evil has a deeper root than has yet been made apparent. The servants of even our Charitable Institutions are divided into an Aristocracy and a Democracy. The upperlings rob the poor man's fund of hundreds of pounds, and the underlings, following the example of their superiors to the extent of the opportunity afforded, rob the same fund of hundreds of pence. The former go to work on a full stomach—the latter fall to with a yearning appetite—and therein lies the difference. The inferior officer has a salary insufficient to the support of his family—and if he have an excess of coal, candle, or soap, he looks upon such excess as an addition of so much to the amount of his annual stipend.

But I would fly at higher game—at those who compel the strong, and I have thought myself justified on the present occasion in taking the advice of two gentlemen of high character, to spare the feelings of those who, when wronged, err under misconception, and who are therefore infinitely less culpable than the be-robed thieves who, in the name of their honesty, their honor and their worshipfulness, even whilst they abstract the loaf from the ill stored board of the laboring man, the artisan and the mechanic.

Be it observed however that this lenity is to operate as a warning—and not as a precedent.

J. A.

TO THE REFORMERS OF HULL.

FRIENDS.—The occurrences of the past week are of some moment to us, and as they severally require observation, I shall arrange my comments under their respective topics.

PERSECUTION.

Despite the paltry yet persevering opposition of the Ferry Monopolists, I have thrown open the passage across the Humber, and have established the incredible fact that the Hull Corporators are not invulnerable. They and their Ferry lessees, would shrink from no sacrifice to put down Public Opinion, and reinstate themselves in the position which they occupied but three months since.

In order that I might be enabled to establish the right of the Public to traverse the Humber without paying Toll to the Corporators of Hull, you are aware that I had the engine of my Packet put in complete repair, and for which purpose I employed Mr. Overton. This gentleman, having turned his work out of hand delivered me his bill to that date,—whereupon I paid him £10. out of 44£. and told him that, call when he would, I would reduce his claim as speedily, and in as few instalments as possible. He appeared well content, and shaking me by the hand, left the vessel. Two or three days afterwards he undertook some additional work on board the packet, and of this work I had not received his bill when I was arrested at his suit for the amount of the two bills, without the slightest intimation, or any demand being made for their payment!

Mr. Overton works for the Ferry Lessees, who are said to be his best customers. Mr. B. L. Johnson, the lawyer who works for the Whigs, either is or was the legal adviser of Mr. Overton; but Mr. Charles Henry Phillips the attorney who works for Mr. B. L. Johnson, was the individual employed to arrest me without previous application for payment, and for an amount, of which the bill was not delivered to me, until four or five days after the arrest, and then by Mr. Phillips himself, in his own office! Is this conduct excusable? Is it gentlemanly, tradesman-like, or usual? If I do not greatly

mistake, Overton has most culpably lent himself to the furtherance of the unmanly views of my cowardly opponents; and if he has, I envy him not his feelings. As he walks the streets even the little boys will point, at him as they proclaim "That is the man who arrested Acland, without previously asking him for money, in order that the Corporators might have him in their gaol; that the Ferry Lessees should re-establish their monopoly; and Anthony be enabled to frighten the market people into submissiveness under robbery!" Such at least will be the reflection of every honest man, as this tool of my persecutors crosses his path. Much better would it have been for him if he had given me a few weeks credit for the undemanded balance of his account, but he has made his election.

Mr. Phillips excuses his client on the ground that some one had told him that I was about to leave Hull. Indeed! Then the lie must have come from a Corporator, or one equally interested in my incarceration; and here we may see the sort of motive which prompted Overton and Phillips to this mean and cowardly act.

The moment I was arrested (and Mr. Stamp acquitted himself as a gentleman in the transaction) two staunch Reformers came forward and bailed me.

Last Wednesday the debt and costs (£38. 13s. 6d.) were paid by the voluntary contributions of a hundred and sixty approvers of my humble efforts.—Reformers of Hull! Is not this wormwood to all the enemies of the people? Does it not proclaim in intelligible language that in persecuting me, the wretches who would yet longer retain you in the state of disgraceful vassalage to which they have reduced you, will have to contend, not against me individually, but against "Public Opinion" backed by a "Public Purse?" Let them reflect upon this—and ere it be too late, repent them of their former sins and resolve to lead a new life—to their own credit, and to the moral, political and commercial advantage of the Town and Port of Kingston-upon-Hull.

HULL POLITICAL UNION.

Having last week convened a meeting for the purpose of establishing a Union for Hull, Sculcoates, and their vicinity, a Council was appointed for preparing the necessary Rules, and at the adjourned meeting held last Thursday evening the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

- I. That the following be approved as the legitimate

OBJECTS OF THE

HULL AND SCULCOATES POLITICAL UNION.

1. To obtain by every just and legal means, such a Reform in the Commons' House of Parliament, as will ensure a full, free, and fair representation of the People in that house, which we consider can never be obtained without the protection of Vote by Ballot, and a shorter duration of Parliaments.

2. To prepare petitions, addresses, and remonstrances to the Crown and Legislative bodies for the attainment of such objects as may be necessary for securing to all classes their just rights.

3. To prevent and redress as far as practicable, all Public Wrongs, and all Local Encroachments upon the Rights, Interests, and Privileges of the Community.

4. To promote Peace and Union among the people, and guide and direct the public mind into uniform, peaceful and legitimate operations.

5. To promote as far as possible in the election of members of Parliament, the return of such able and upright men, as will strenuously support the Rights and Liberties of the people.

- II. The name of each member shall be registered in the Book of the Union, and he shall be furnished with a ticket on his admission, which he shall produce at every meeting of the Union.

- III. The general management of the affairs of the Union shall be conducted by a Council of twenty-one, to be chosen at a general meeting, and eleven shall have power to act.

- IV. All persons becoming members of the Union, are expected to contribute such donations, not less than sixpence, at the entrance, and to pay Annual or Quarterly Subscriptions, as they can conveniently afford, the Subscriptions not being less than one shilling per Quarter.

- V. The Officers of this Union shall consist of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, and shall be chosen by ballot, at an Annual general meeting of the Union.

- VI. The Officers of the Union shall, by virtue of their office, be members of the Council.

- VII. The Council shall have power to call a general meeting of the Union at any time they may think proper.

- VIII. In case the Council shall refuse to call a general meeting, any twenty members of the Union having affixed their signatures to a requisition, and having transmitted it to the President or Vice President, shall have power to call such general meeting at any time they may think proper.

- IX. The Council shall employ the funds of the Union solely in effecting the objects of the Union, to the best of their judgment and discretion, and no money shall be drawn from the Treasurer without an order passed by the Council, and signed by the Chairman.

- X. The Council shall have power to expel from the meeting any person disturbing the peace, or violating the Rules and Regulations of the Union.

- XI. No alterations shall be made in these Rules unless notice thereof has been given at a prior meeting of the Union, and entered in a book which shall be kept of that purpose, and signed by the proposer and seconder.

- XII. That the books of the Union shall, at every general meeting, be open for the inspection of every member.

- XIII. That the Officers of this Association shall be elected by the members of the Union, by ballot, this day week; and, the following Gentlemen shall be requested to act *pro tempore*

President, Mr. JACKSON

Vice President, Mr. ACLAND.

Treasurer, Mr. LARARD.

Secretary, Mr. J. NOBLE, Junr.

- XIV. That Books for the enrollment of the names of those wishing to become members of this Union, be kept open till next Thursday, at Mr. Noble's, Market-Place, and Mr. Jackson Bowditch Lane.

- XV. That the thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. Jackson for his able conduct in the Chair.

Here then, my friends, you have afforded you a glorious occasion, of proving that you are not the servile herd which your local aristocrats would have you to be. Come forward, you, upon whose labor the oppressors of our misgoverned country have quartered those troops of marauders the relatives of our hereditary locusts! Come forward, you, who dare attempt the regeneration of our political powers, the renovation of our acknowledged rights, the redress of our manifold wrongs! You who love your country, and would save it from ages of misrule, come forward now. You who hate the despot

which has galled you and your ancestors, inhabitants of Hull, from time immemorial, come forward now and assist in the destruction of that odious and oppressive illegal oligarchy by which your town is ruled for the advantage of a heartless few, at the cost of suffering, misery, of ruin and of degradation to the many thousands of your abused population. If ever there is a chance of Reform, if ever there was a prospect of justice, that chance and that prospect are now afforded.

Be true then to yourselves, to your children, to your country. Hasten to inscribe your names in the books of the "Union." Press forward to enrol yourselves among the guardians of the public peace, among the protectors of property, among the conservators of your rights. So only can you acquit yourselves of your under duty as men and freemen; so only can you prove yourselves worthy the blood shed by your ancestors to secure to you the blessings of which you have been deprived by treacherous ministers; and so only can you transmit to your children that love of liberty which should be inherent among an intelligent and free people and the enjoyment of those rights which are essential to the well being of a nation living under a representative system of Government. Come forward and enlist yourselves in the National Guard—of which there are already so many regiments—and each regiment a "Union" of men determined to free themselves from the persecution, and their common Country from the domination of our National and Local Aristocrats. Men of Hull—you will do your duty. You will throw off the fetters of your tyrants—and rescue your Town from the opprobrium which has hitherto but too justly been attached to it.

ANTI-TOLL ASSOCIATION.

This body is now properly organized. The Committee actively engaged in furthering the objects for which the Association was embodied. New members from all parts of the adjoining districts are daily inscribing their names in the books. The Solicitor appointed at the General Meeting has entered on the preparatory duties of his office with intelligence, assiduity, and zeal. So that, whenever the Toll exactors may be pleased to institute proceedings, those who have so essential an interest in the legal result of the question at issue will be fully prepared to meet their Corporate antagonists. Those persons have something more at issue than the mere amount of the Tolls—for, if they go to trial and lose their cause, and lose it they must) they will with equal certainty forfeit their Charter of Incorporation by reason of their manifest dishonesty, and their gross abuse of the powers entrusted to them for the benefit, not of themselves alone, but of the general body of the Burgesses. On this point the law affecting Corporators is sufficiently explicit. They will therefore act wisely in taking care that they are well advised before they attempt to leap into a dirty ditch—and risk not simply the object of their

enterprise, but the means of yet longer trampling on the rights of their fellow townsmen, and the Commercial, and Trading interests of this trading community. Let them look well to it; but if they should at all hazards determine on being actuated by the rule of wrong, they shall find the People of Hull prepared and determined.

Yesterday I made a beginning with the Cart Toll and to-day I shall start my vehicle from the Market-Place at Ten o'Clock, for the purpose of making a tour of the Bridges for the trial of this question. The Cart Toll is quite as illegal as the Market Toll, with this additional injustice—that, whilst the Aristocrat may drive his four-in-hand through the Town, Toll free, the industrious carrier, or hard-working coalman is made to contribute from his earnings towards the luxury and extravagance of Hull Aldermen.

"Oh, shame! where is thy blush?"

But an end shall be put to this iniquity. Let those who are oppressed by this illegal exaction immediately join the Anti-Toll Association and they need submit no longer to the Corporate imposition.

THE HULL PACKET

Has favored its few readers with another edition of blackguardism. He charges me with having had but twenty-five votes when I stood the contest for Bristol, but he forgets to state (or rather it does not accord with his dishonest views to state) that there were fifty thousand substantial reasons for my having so few votes—that I kept the poll open even after Mr. Protheroe had retired from the contest, and that the Sheriffs of Bristol, at the close of the election, publicly thanked me for my gentlemanly conduct throughout the proceedings, and for the great assistance I had impartially given in the many intricate questions which had arisen on objections made to the sufficiency of the votes tendered. Do not Messrs. Goddard and Arnal perceive in the fact of my keeping the poll open to the last in the Bristol Election with but 25 votes, a proof that I can make a good electioneering battle in Hull with even a smaller number? If I have but two (my proposer and my seconder) enemies of the People shall find their victory a dearly bought one. And Goddard and Arnal know this—and fear it—and are sore about it—and so descend to blackguardism to avert the impending evil.

Goddard denies all acquaintance with Wilkins, at least so far as his attack upon me is concerned. Will he have the impudence to deny that after the Public Meeting in Queen Street, he, Parkinson, Wilkins, and Walkden's Lincoln Coachman met at the Minerva Tavern and over their brandy and water, discussed the means of opposing and exposing me by blackguardism? Will he have the effrontery to assert that any other subject was touched upon on that occasion? He may quibble as he will, and Arnal quirk as he may, but let them come to the point and stick to the truth, and I will shew them to be men unworthy the support of even a conscientious Tory. They are contemptible creatures, or they would not fence thus for the despicable purpose of misrepresenting an open antagonist who never writes an article without signing his name to it.

JAMES ACLAND.

CHARITIES OF THE GUILD, OR FRATERNITY OF THE TRINITY HOUSE OF KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.

THE Guild or Brotherhood of Masters and Pilots, seamen of the Trinity House of Kingston-upon-Hull, which has existed under different Charters of incorporation, the first of them granted in the 20th year of the Reign of King Henry the Sixth, and the last being dated the 18th of November, in the 13th year of King Charles the Second, originated in 1309, as a Guild or Fraternity of persons associated for religious purposes and for mutual relief, under the name of the Guild of the Holy Trinity.

By two instruments, dated respectively on the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross 1456, and on the feast of All-hallows 1457, several persons being Masters of ships in Kingston-upon-Hull in the name of the Holy Trinity, for themselves and the mariners in Hull, and all the Masters and Mariners that thereafter should come into the said Town, and be of the same will and purpose, and with the consent of all the Mariners and commoners of the said Town, granted and assigned all sums of money belonging to them by way of lowage, and stowage, in any ship, upon any voyage which they, or any of them should make, outward or inward of the same port, such sums to be received by two Aldermen to be yearly chosen by them, the said Masters or Mariners; and it was ordained that out of the sums of money to be received, a Priest should be found and supported at the Altar of the Trinity Chapel, on the south side of the Church of the Holy Trinity in Kingston-upon-Hull, daily and yearly to say Mass; and that an house of alms which had been established in Kingston-upon-Hull for impotent and indigent mariners, should be sustained and continued.

The right of collecting the above mentioned payments, as duties of lowage and stowage, now called primage, was confirmed to the Guild of the Trinity House by different Charters of incorporation; and ultimately by that of King Charles the Second, as afterwards more fully stated.

By the last mentioned Charter, which recites that the Guild or Brotherhood had granted to them divers liberties and privileges by the Kings and Queens of England, and that they had continued and been governed in such manner that the same had much tended to the furtherance of navigation, the increase of shipping and well breeding of seamen in the Town and Port of Kingston-upon-Hull, or belonging thereto: it was ordained that the Guild should consist of twelve elder brethren and six assistants, and of younger brethren; that two wardens should be yearly chosen to govern the Guild and have the custody, and direction of all the lands, revenues, goods and chattels of the Guild; that the wardens, elder brethren, and assistants or such number of them as therein mentioned, should have power to make laws for their own government,

and the conservation and government of all mariners and increase of the navies and seamen belonging to the Town: and that the Guild should have authority within the port of Kingston-upon-Hull and the liberties thereof, to take primage as in time theretofore had been taken or received by their predecessors by way of loadenage or lowage; primage or stowage, that is to say threepence for every ton of wine, oil, and fish, and all other goods and merchandizes to be brought by sea into, or shipped or laden at the port of Hull, or within the liberties thereof, by any ship, bark, hoy, or vessel: and that the said primage and all money due, or to be received for the said Guild or Fraternity, should be to the use commodity and profit of the said Guild or Brotherhood, unto and for the repairing a certain house or hall, or almshouse, in the said Town belonging to the same Guild, called the Trinity House, and of a Chapel appertaining to the same built by their predecessors, and for the finding and relief of 28 poor pensioners brethren of the said Guild, or their widows fallen into poverty or need, or by misfortune thereafter to come to poverty, and also for the relief of other poor mariners and seamen, and their widows, such as by them and their successors should be thought need and necessary therewith to be relieved: and powers were thereby given of enforcing payment of the said dues by arrest and imprisonment of the parties, arrest of ships or vessels and distress; and the Guild were thereby empowered to determine causes respecting seamen's wages, and were authorised to keep back any seamen or mariners from acting as Master or Pilot of any ship or vessel to cross the seas, or pass down the Humber beyond Flamborough-Head northward, or Winterton-Ness southward, other than such as should be first examined, and found sufficient by them, whom if sufficient and being natural born subjects, they should admit into their Brotherhood. And after setting forth that the Guild had at their own charges, erected in the Roadstead of Kingston-upon-Hull near the Haven mouth, a grand porter or standard, for safe veering in and hauling out of ships coming into the Haven, which was otherwise very dangerous, and had repaired the same without any allowance, they were therefore empowered to levy to the use of the Guild on every English ship, bark, or keel, coming from sea into the Haven, for every voyage, if of the burden of 60 tons or under, four-pence; from 60 to 100 tons six-pence; from 100 to 150 tons nine-pence, from 150 to 200 tons and upwards twelve-pence; and double the like duty upon all foreigners' ships. The Corporation of the Trinity House are in the receipt of very large annual revenues arising from different estates and funds, and from various Tolls, imports and duties, received under the powers of their charters and sundry acts of Parliament.

The incomes arising from these several services, is carried to a general account, and applied by the Corporation partly for charitable uses, and partly for

the other purposes of their institution, and defraying the charges incidental to the functions and duties exercised by them in the conservation of the river Humber, and the care of the navigation of that river, and along the coast within certain limits. In the course of managing and administering their revenues, all accounts of receipt and expenditure are examined and audited once every quarter of a year, and no payments exceeding 40s. are made without the sanction of a board, consisting of four elder brethren and one assistant.

The property and estates of the Trinity House, which have been conferred on them, or can be traced to be held by them specifically for charitable purposes, as for charitable and other purposes jointly are as follows.

1st. The duty of primage already mentioned, being 3d. per ton on all goods and merchandizes imported into, or exported from, the port of Hull and its limits, which extend from the Mouth of the Humber on the South to Bridlington Harbour inclusive northward. The amount of this duty on an average of 10 years, ending in September 1822 has been £3.374 7s. 1d. per annum.

2d. Several dwelling houses in Hull, erected on land formerly the site of a priory of the house of the Peres Carmelite commonly called the White Friars. This estate was conveyed to the corporation by Thomas Ferris, by indenture of 30th July, 19th of James the first under a license from the Crown in which licence the trusts or object of the grant are stated to be for the reparation of the Chapel of the Guild or Fraternity of the Trinity House, and the support and relief of poor and infirm mariners, seamen and other persons there to be relieved.

(To be continued.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR.—I have often wished to state my wrongs, and now I think both time and opportunity are favourable, thanks to your independent course.

In the first instance, I have to complain of long and grievous neglect; those of my guardians who have received for a length of time the fruits of my education, (Tolls! I understand they are called,) instead of applying them as they ought, to the beautifying and repairing of my structure, have otherwise acted, and how they have applied them, will be a fit subject for enquiry at the proper time. Neglect is mortifying and I have suffered it much, but when my necessities have been so obvious that even my cruel and negligent Guardians could not overlook them, instead of comforting they have delivered me over to the tormentors, and who under the semblance of repairs have racked their—brains I was going to say, but more correctly speaking, that doltish material substance, contained within their skulls, for the purpose of making me as ugly and as inconvenient as may be.—Some philanthropic spirit, formerly, caused a flight of steps to be constructed near me, for the accommodation of the Poor in taking

water from the River for the wholesome purposes of salubrity and cleanliness, and a great source of delight it was to me, to overhear the expressions of joy and gratitude from the lips of the young and jocular water carriers, who then used to cheer my occasional loneliness; but the spirit of encroachment and sordid acquisition possessed my guardians, and they took away the steps and built an ugly and obstructing warehouse over them, close to my very sides, wishful, as it seems to me to prove by so doing the extent of their capability in inconveniencing the Public and rendering a great thoroughfare and approach to the Town still more dangerous and crooked. Instead of the cheerful water carrier, there is a set of discontented and squalid beings trampling upon me, and, with a long rope attached to their buckets dragging up the water from the depth beneath with execrations on those who have thus sacrificed the comforts of the poor to their own greedy desires.

Some years back I was enlivened by the light of half a dozen or eight Lamps, which enabled me to pass the dark and wintry nights with less discomfort; they also served to point out to the weary passenger the dangers lurking in my neighbourhood, but the sordid demon of acquisition grieved I suppose at their cost, extinguished them, and, at the very point of danger left me in total darkness. Many are the bitter curses I have heard from the drowning wretch, in his last agony, on the reckless authors of his destruction. Perhaps you will hear from me again.

Yours'

Hull, Nov. 3rd, 1831.

NORTH-BRIDGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR.—I perfectly agree with your Correspondent, "Watchman" that the Commissioners of Pilots should be carefully watched, especially as the Trinity House Lawyers are to procure the new Act, a party from whom improvement cannot be expected. We do want a New Act, but it should simply repeal the old one which is admitted to be every thing that is bad and then the most respectable and skilful Pilots would obtain employment. At present, favourites at the Trinity House however unfit they may be, generally get appointed; hence the levying of the maximum rate, although wages of almost every description of persons are greatly reduced.

I concur in opinion with you that we ought to have a Chamber of Commerce in this Port, for the purpose of protecting its trading interests and contradicting the abominable misrepresentations of the aristocratic ship-owners' society, an institution, (considering its recent formation,) which has done more injury to this town, than any other of our many nuisances. When I inform you that it is the offspring of the Mansion House, and Trinity House—I need not say any more about this precious society, to direct your attention to it.

I am Sir, Your Obedient Servant,
A TOWNSMAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,---When you first assailed the existing monopoly of the Ferry across the Humber, by an actual conveyance of Passengers over it, I for one had little or no confidence in your doing it with success; for it was but fair to suppose that the Corporation of Hull must have some Law on their side and some right well founded which could justify the imprisonment of poor Ledgeitt and Hill at different periods for no other crime than that which you were assuredly committing. A little time however was alone necessary to dispel this illusion; it soon became evident that they had not a shadow of a pretence for the injury inflicted on these poor men, and if reparation is still in their power---I hope ere long they will be induced to make it, but even when their inability to prevent you from conveying passengers across this important River became so apparent, I still doubted your ability to continue the pursuit.

You however have had some excellent Friends, and none better than the Lessees themselves or more properly speaking their wise representative at Barton waterside, Mr. Parkinson. The public generally cannot be so well acquainted with his proceedings in regard to this important question, (namely the exclusive right of Ferry) as I am it may therefore be well to detail them for their information, and if they do not discover in them something more than ordinary wisdom and dignity then indeed have they lost their judgment.

First of all you see him on your first landing here, wading up to the knees in water, with a twopenny knife in his hand threatening destruction to you and your mooring rope-- one strand of which I believe after considerable exertion he succeeding in cutting through, when, probably finding the labor too great, he abandons that object and turns round in threatening attitude to your vessel, and the hundreds who crowded her decks, defying their landing and promising destruction in case they did, which by the bye was all intended to try the right. They however, regardless of this mighty Champion, or his threats soon descended from the vessel and in their eagerness to reach the top of the Jetty had well nigh laid poor Solomon and all his wisdom prostrate thereon. This grand display of prowess and power being over and your vessel departed, you see him absorbed in deep reflection, and after resolving and re-resolving for some time, he is at last seen hastening to the Jetty, big with his new discovery, and first ordering a Gallows to be erected thereon, the end and meaning of which no one could define for a moment, he next orders a Draw Bridge to be made and now he says I am CERTAINLY LORD of the Humber, I'll teach them to come here and dispute my right, none shall pass and re-pass but such as I please for Public Opinion never can surmount this. His Draw-Bridge however was put down in the course of the day, never more to be raised, and poor Sol was once more in despair. Yet this scheme was not entirely to be given up; it was a favorite one, and had cost him much thought and meditation; he therefore ordered that the Gallows should remain---no doubt imagining, that as many of your Passengers and Adherents, shewed so much delinquency and an utter disregard of him and his authority it might at any rate be as well to keep them perpetually in mind of their destiny and which might perchance also have the effect which he intended, and so earnestly wished, viz to deter those unwelcome visitors, the Public Opinion and her passengers. But I lack a day, look at their foolhardiness! The Public Opinion and her Passengers still came and went, in despite of all that this Sage had invented and done, and what step to take next he seemed utterly at a loss to determine, and in consequence wandered about from Pillar to Post, ruminating and reflecting as to what he was to do,

seeing that these refractory beings were not to be overawed even by the Gallows--when, after about three weeks' deep deliberation, he at last tries another scheme, and now he exclaims, "I have it, I have it at last," and away he goes to work, and a old Oar being erected at the top of the Jetty, pointing to the clouds observe (and a noble Oar it was, and is, and well calculated to try the right of Ferry) and this being done away ran all the old men and women in the parish, and even Children exclaiming "Good God! what is going to be done now? We are going to have the question fully tried at last; something terrible is surely about to take place, for a great huge Oar is erected at the end of the Jetty, and what is to follow we know not but terrible it must be, for it must needs be something more terrifying than the Gallows itself," thinking as they did, that the one was to be superseded by the other. In this however they were mistaken; the Gallows was a favourite as I have already told you, and was not wantonly to be abandoned, it was therefore always to form a part of any new scheme which might occur to his great mind, so there stood the Old Oar, and there stood the Gallows--one coniguous to the other, part of one whole day and all one night, the people all the while in the greatest surprise and amazement as to what was to follow, when lo! and behold! on the following morning, (Sunday) they were agreeably relieved by discovering a board on each side of this alarming Oar, a board on each side recollect, on each side and at the top of the Oar too, to serve both for comers and goers, come they from the North or from the South, or even from the clouds none could escape these tremendous boards, and on these boards were some white letters on a black Ground which were no doubt of great import, but as they could not be decyphered or understood, this opinion is formed merely upon a knowledge of the Author. And now let me tell you I thought he had really accomplished his object, for what with the Gallows and what with the Oar and Boards, aided by his own elegant person, having always in his hand a pencil and a card, on which he affected to be taking down or did take down the names of such visitors, which with a friendly twinge of the elbow now and then given to those whom he deemed respectable, and a point upwards to this frightful board, certainly seemed to have the desired effect. The visitors were evidently a little frightened, and there was rather a lack of them for some time, and I really considered this great and important question now disposed of. At length however this attempt at intimidation is found to be unavailing, notwithstanding several hand bills had been circulated in Hull to the same effect as these boards; and I now think that the poor man will go distracted, he cannot rest by night or by day, but goes roaming about, throwing Gigs overboard, and setting boats at liberty, hires people to abuse you, insults his worthy patron's best friends, and heads and encourages all the Bullies of the Establishment to annoy them, and plays such other mad pranks as never were equalled. You are aware by his own confession he has been the means once or twice of exposing your passengers to considerable danger, (to say the least of it,) by setting your large Boat adrift, not in open day, but at midnight when all good Christians like him ought to be in bed; and this seems to delight him above anything--and by this exultation, and this conduct coupled with his professed extra accommodation to the Townsfolk by running his Steamer Coronation, sometimes for nothing, and at other times for a penny, (all which is seen through) he assured he has done more to serve your cause, and more to injure the Lessees than your best friends, or their bitterest enemies, (of whom I never was one) could have effected; and you have nothing now to do in my opinion, but to persevere steadily in your undertaking, adopt two Fares, cut down your expenses to the lowest possible scale and preserve strict discipline on board your Packet and the Victory is yours and the public's. You will find me

time, I hope be enabled to reap an abundant Harvest, and smile at such pusillanimity. I beg to subscribe myself to Mr. P's. midnight snares and traps.

Barton-upon-Humber, Nov. 8th, 1831.

A VICTIM.

P. S. The events of the last two days will require a second letter from me in further demonstration of the uniform wisdom so conspicuous in all the proceedings of the Jetty despots.

MAM:—I shall be glad to receive and publish the continuation of this extraordinary little history. How despicable do those men appear who persist in wrong under the flimsy affectation that they think themselves in the right—or wish others to believe that they think so! The shallow pated fools must be birched by the school-master—and

*The Rod is in pickle
Their Tobies to tickle.*

J. A.

ON THE VICES AND FOLLIES IN BOROUGHES; The origin and corrupt source of all our National Evils.

*"When caps among a crowd are thrown,
That which fits best, take for your own."*

HUDIBRAS.

Why, wherefore, why do Britons sigh?

What cause so great as Boroughs?

Where ev'ry Vice first takes its rise,
To fill the Land with Sorrows?

To prove the case we need no place,
But Gotham in the Nation;

Where selfish Knaves and crouching Slaves,
Are made a Corporation.

Where they prefer the flatterer,

The servile and the sneaker;

Sure such defect of intellect,

Must make the body weaker.—

For, mark them, how they cringe and bow

To men possessed of power—

And those more fear than God revere!

What creatures can be lower?

Tho' here they go to church for show,

With ensigns of the Pagans;

There sit in state—with hearts elate,

Like worshippers of Dagon.

Yet it is known no God they own,

But Plutus god of riches;

For him they feel such fervent zeal,

He truly them bewitches.

But some have qualms, and give small alms,

A card-assembly people;

When this they do, the world must know,

As public as church-steeple.

Such things declare they Gentiles are,

With but the name of Christians;

And far below, these lines will shew,

The Romans and the Grecians.

As proof what tricks in Politics,

To load us with Taxation!

For paltry Grants, these Sycophants,

To Tyrants sell the Nation!

To sell their wares in smallest shares,

To Mongers pawn their Charter;

For house to rent, or land, consent

Our sacred rights to barter.

Who gives the most with them is first,

Whatever his pretensions;

Some country tool, or servile fool,

Who robs the State by Pensions.

Tho' all are bound in Oaths profound,
To check them at Elections;
Yet these they break, their trust forsake
For bribes, to Knaves' directions.

But here like fools, they buy their rules,
Of Lawyers, Priests and Doctors;*
In things most dear, from doubt or fear,
These men are made their proctors.

Here Priests denure pretend so pure,†
For 'livings they palaver?
The rich and great with falsehood cheat,
And gloss their vices over.

When to his sight who can go right,
A Priest becomes deceiver;
The fabled man this does dwell,
So is an Unbeliever.

Where is the skill when one is ill?
Where find the Doctor knowledge?
Where was he, where, a month to hear?
Was't in Saint Andrew's College?

What better than than other men
These lubb'd Apothecaries;
He and his tribe by guess prescribe—
In nought their practice varies.

When shall we find an upright mind
In Lawyers by profession?

All trick, finesse, the rich redress,
The poor leave to oppression!

Hence we infer that men must err,
Where Priests delight in nonsense!
Where Doctors kill for want of skill!
And Lawyers have no conscience!

*When will the eyes of mankind be open to the impositions of those three classes of men who are supported in plenty, and some in luxury, by the litigious, honourous, superstitious fears, and intemperate habits of the rest of the community!

†While Church and State continue united, how is it possible any Reformation, which ought to begin with the highest Powers in the State, can be effected? While the Laity continue to receive their moral, religious, and even political knowledge from the Clergy; and while the Clergy are so dependent on the Laity for the best Places in the Church, which compels them to flatter their vices instead of correcting their errors—how are the sacred interests of truth, virtue, and happiness of the rest of mankind shamefully sported with and neglected!

EASTER DUES.

THE Churchwardens of the Parish of the Holy Trinity having collected two-pence per head of the Inhabitants of the said Parish, who have arrived at the age of sixteen years, and they not having a legal right to collect any money for any purpose but by Rate, such Rate being granted them by a Vestry Meeting, legally called for that purpose; and this poll Tax being therefore both illegal and unjust, it becomes necessary that means be adopted to resist such intolerable impost. To which end, a Public Meeting will be held at the Odd Fellows' Arms, Cross-Street, on Monday the 21st Instant, at Eight o'Clock in the evening precisely, for the adoption of such measures as may appear best calculated to secure the just rights of the people of Hull, in respect of the exaction aforesaid.

Chariot-Street, Hull, Nov. 10th, 1831.

JAMES DENBY,

A COPY OF THE CHARTER GRANTED BY KING CHARLES THE SECOND TO THE TOWN OF HULL, DATED THIRD OF DECEMBER, ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY ONE.

(Continued from page 110.)

AND FURTHERMORE, we give and grant to the Mayor of the Town or Borough aforesaid for the time being, in the presence or the Aldermen of the same Town or Borough for the time being, or the greater part of them, full power and authority, such like Oath to the aforesaid, as well as to all and every other Recorder or Recorders of that Town or Borough for the time being, in form aforesaid, to be named and appointed, and to all and every other Deputy or Deputies in form aforesaid, to be named and appointed, respectively to give and administer by these presents.

We will also, and by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors, do grant to the aforesaid Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull aforesaid, and to their Successors, that they and their Successors for ever hereafter, may and shall have in the Town or Borough aforesaid one good and honest man, in form hereafter in these presents mentioned, to be appointed and named, who shall be, and shall be named Common Clerk of that Town or Borough, and that such Common Clerk of the Town or Borough as aforesaid, so to be appointed or named before he be admitted to execute that office his Corporal Oath before the Mayor of that Town or Borough, for the time being in the presence of the Aldermen of the same Town or Borough for the time being or the greater part of them shall take, well and faithfully to execute that office of Common Clerk of that Town or Borough, according to his knowledge in all things, and by all things touching that office and from and after such Oath so taken, the Office of Common Clerk of the Town or Borough aforesaid, he may have exercise, to use by himself or his sufficient Deputy in his part and duty appointed. And we have assigned, named, constituted and made, and by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors, do assign and constitute and make our well beloved Charles Voase an Inhabitant of the Town or Borough aforesaid, the first and present Common Clerk of the same Town or Borough during his natural life, except in the mean time for his evil carriage in that office, or other reasonable cause, from thence he shall be removed by the Mayor and Aldermen of the Town or Borough aforesaid for the time being, or the greater part of them, to whom in such and the like case and cases full power and authority, we do give and grant by these presents, as well the aforesaid Charles Voase as any other Common Clerk of that Town hereafter to be named

and constituted Common Clerk of that Town or Borough for the time being totally to remove.

AND FURTHERMORE we will, and by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors, do grant and declare that we our Heirs and Successors from time to time, whenever as often as the Office of Common Clerk of the same Town or Borough aforesaid, by the death or due moving of the aforesaid Charles Voase, or if any other Common Clerk of the said Borough hereafter to be named, constituted or otherwise any manner or way shall happen to be void, then and so often at the humble petition of the Mayor and Burgesses of that Town or Borough, for the time being, to us our Heirs or Successors, in this part to be exhibited, we will assign and constitute and make another discreet man to be Common Clerk of the same Town or Borough to continue in that office during his natural life, except in the mean time from thence in due manner as aforesaid, he shall be removed. And we will that the aforesaid Charles Voase as all, and every other person and persons to, and upon the Office of Common Clerk of that Town or Borough hereafter named and constituted, or to be named and constituted, and every of their Deputies duly named or appointed, or to be named and appointed, his corporal Oath upon the Holy Gospel of God, before the Mayor of the Town or Borough aforesaid, for the time being in the presence of the Aldermen of the same Town or Borough, for the time being, or the greater part of them shall take, and every of them shall take well and faithfully to execute that office in all things before they be admitted, or any of them be admitted respectively to execute that office, and to which Mayor of that Town aforesaid, for the time being such like Oaths, as well to the aforesaid Charles Voase, as to all and every other person or persons in and to the office of Common Clerk of the Town or Borough aforesaid, named and constituted unto every of their Deputies in form aforesaid, to be named and appointed to give and administer full power and authority, we do give and grant by these presents.

(To be continued.)

MEM :—The last number of this publication is out of print, but will speedily be reprinted; perhaps in a week or ten days. As to the continued applications from Beverley, Scarborough, Newcastle, Lincoln, &c. for a regular supply of the Portfolio, I beg, once for all to state, that I open no accounts, and that their only chance of obtaining the paper is that of an early purchase by a resident friend. Mr. Bye of Scarbro', is informed that all his orders have been dropped into my letter-box although each stated that the bearer would pay me the amount of the order.

J. A.

Printed and Published by JAMES ACLAND, sole Proprietor, and Editor No: 38, Queen-Street, Hull.

THE Hull Portfolio;

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES ACLAND.

"Bonis nocet quisquis pepercit malis."—CICERO.
HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY JAMES ACLAND, SOLE PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR, NO. 38, QUEEN-STREET, HULL.

Vol. I.—No. 17.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1831.

Twopence.

TO THE PEOPLE OF HULL AND BARTON.

FRIENDS,

The occurrences of the past week, with reference to the question, whether the Corporators have a right to a Monopoly of the Ferry across the Humber, are of much interest, and involve the yet more important consideration, whether a Corporate body is justified in seeking the retention of an income by extortion and by brute force—outraging public feeling, endangering the peace of the community and disgusting every real friend of order and every lover of justice.

These occurrences I shall proceed to notice as they transpired—prefacing such statement with a general view of the preceding events in connection with the more recent transactions.

The question at issue is a very simple one, namely, Whether or not the Public have a right to cross the Humber in any other vessel than that of the Lessees of the Corporators of Hull. Contending that they have, I started a Packet in opposition to that of the Lessees. Previously to my having done so, the Corporators had repeatedly committed poor men to Gaol for having taken passengers across the river in open boats and for refusing to pay the Lessees a shilling for each of them as they landed. These and equally iniquitous proceedings, as well on the part of the Lessees as of the Lessors, repared the public mind for that ready reception and cordial support of my effort to destroy the illegal monopoly which has ennobled me thus far to battle against the wealth and influence, and audacious impudence which have been opposed to me in this matter.

The question raised was one of a purely legal nature. The Corporators claimed a right, grounded, as they alleged on a Charter. I oppose that right on the opinions of Counsel, taken by the Corporators themselves since, and which opinions are decisive against the validity of the claims of the Monopolists. To try a right I run a Packet, thus directly invading the monopoly. The Corporators apply to the Lord Chancellor for an injunction to restrain me—but which injunction is refused on the ground that, "*most of the*

old Corporate bodies want a great deal of looking into." Beyond this, no effort has been made to bring the business to a legal issue, and the Packet of the Monopolists, and that of the Public have now run in opposition to each other for upwards of three months—the charge in the latter being less than one half of that in the former.

The Corporators find their eight hundred pounds a year in jeopardy—whilst the Lessees have the mortification of running a Packet without Passengers. If these men possessed an ordinary stock of common sense they would at once resolve, "That inasmuch as the public will no longer submit to be robbed, the sooner we retire from the concern the better." But it is not so. They will have their struggle for the retention of so lucrative an opportunity of enriching themselves at the expence of others, and in defiance of law—and hence the occurrence of the momentous events of the past week.

During the three months of this opposition, the Lessees and their servants have sought by every means to restore their monopoly by the injury and destruction of my Packet. Over and over again have they endeavoured to run her ashore. Over and over again have they run into her when in port. Declarations of their intention wilfully and maliciously to injure my property, can be proved. Subsequent admissions that they have done so, can also be proved. In short, they have invariably been the aggressors—the heartless and cold-blooded aggressors.

In only one of the many collisions which have taken place between the Packets has the Packet of the Monopolists received any injury. I allude to the accident of Sunday three weeks—on the Passage from Barton to Hull. We left Barton at half past eleven in the forenoon, against the flood. Both Packets crossed to Hessele to avail themselves of the slack water along the Yorkshire coast. They were side by side the entire distance, the Public Opinion being without the Charter. Each had their sail up. At the Pottery, a full half mile from the Dock basin, we lowered our sail, being half a length a head. This superiority we maintained

to the very moment of the accident—and to the very moment of the accident, and after the occurrence the Charter had her sail set. "Public Opinion" was making for the Northern extremity of the East Jetty—its usual place of destination. That of the Charter, required that she should get out into the river for the purpose of rounding the Eastern extremity of the breakwater, below the Jetty. She was between the shore and my Packet, and half a length astern. There were but two ways for her to get out. One by putting her helm a-port and pushing us out of her way, the other by lowering her sail and stopping her engine for a quarter of a minute, and going round our stern. She preferred the former course. I speak of the period when we were immediately approaching the West Jetty. I was then standing on my larboard paddle-box—and the vessel was within a hundred yards of her destination. The Captain of the Charter ported his helm. The bow of his Packet came in contract with my paddle-box, and he was forcing us out of our way and into the stream. At that moment I called to my Helmsman. "hard-a-starboard." He obeyed me, and the Packet answered—we were then in a direct line to our station—the Charter between us and the West Jetty—there was not room for her there—she was out of her usual course—and she got her deserts, a squeeze against the Jetty, and an injury to her larboard beam, paddle, wheel and shaft. There were several hundred individuals on the Pier and a tremendous shout of applause rent the air, as, the moment afterwards, we reached the end of the East Jetty and the Charter sheered off and was taken in tow by her penny coachman.

This is the only instance of damage sustained by the "Charter" and it can most satisfactorily be shewn that this injury was consequent on the attempt of her captain to shove "Public Opinion" out of her course. Yet on this affair the Lessees apply to the High Court of Admiralty—make affidavits and obtain on such *ex parte* evidence a warrant against my Packet for the damage sustained. I shall not digress in this place to shew the illegality of this procedure but I may be permitted to state that I believe this warrant was obtained in the hope that thereby I might be deprived of my Packet, and of the means of further opposition to that of the Monopolists.

On Saturday evening at half past six the "Charter" left Barton Haven, and was shortly afterwards followed by the "Public Opinion," with forty-three passengers on board. When in the River, two of those passengers went up to the helmsman, declared themselves constables, produced the warrant and seized the vessel, nailing a copy of the warrant to the mast. These were Morley the Barton Postmaster, and Bentley a baker, of Hull.

They had scarcely taken possession when the "Charter" (which had been hovering round the Public Opinion, laid herself along-side. They now threw out ropes which were made fast to my Packet by several other passen-

gers who then first made their appearance from the fore-cabin, and who proved to be sailors and porters in the employ of the Lessees. My passengers were told to get on board the Charter as the Public Opinion was not proceeding to Hull but would be taken back to Barton. They obeyed, and passengers and bum-bailiffs, and warrant, all left Public Opinion, and Morley says, that he and Bentley went on board the Charter by accident. Be that as it may, no sooner had the Bum-bailiffs deserted my Packet than my men very properly cut the ropes and sheered off. The Charter tried, over and over again, to approach her, but Public Opinion left the Lessees behind her and arrived first in the Port of Hull, where they laid the vessel against the Wall in the Ferry Boat Dock. According to Morley's statement, he, as soon as he had landed from the Charter in Hull gave the warrant to Bentley, directing him again to take possession and it appears that Bentley went towards the vessel, and was seen near it shortly afterwards by several persons. He however disappeared, and with him, the warrant. Such was the state of the case, when I was informed of the occurrence and repaired on board the Packet.

After a considerable lapse of time—from an hour to an hour and a half, Morley, having been in search of Bentley, returned and finding me in the cabin with several friends, he produced the warrant and handed it to me. I looked at it and replacing it in hand said, "well, it is a very pretty document; what of it?—what are you going to do with it?" "Why," said Morley, "I suppose I must seize the vessel again." I cautioned him not to suppose about it—gave him fair notice that the seizure would be illegal—and desired him to take legal advice before he committed himself. For this purpose it was agreed that we should meet again on board about ten o'clock at night. We did so, and he then produced his warrant and took formal possession. (Can a Lincolnshire constable, execute a warrant in Hull?) He subsequently sent for Lee the Hull constable and transferred the possession, and the warrant to him, hoping we should be very good friends. I said there was little doubt of that unless Lee should think proper again to brandish his bludgeon in any face. I then declared that should not allow those in possession to be in any way molested but that I should continue to run my packet as usual. Lee replied that I should not if he held the warrant, as he was now going to be carried round the world by me. Shortly afterwards he placed two other men in the Packet, giving the warrant one of them, and he and Morley went ashore.

Between four and half past four the next morning (being SUNDAY) Lee and a party of constables went on board the Packet and with the assistance of Walkden's men unmolested her, and had her towed by the Charter to Barton, where ordered my men ashore. (Can a Hull constable act in Lincolnshire?) The agent of the Lessees proceeded to direct his men where to place her, namely, in a dock, against the sufficiency of which, my Captain at the time protested. Yet there they laid her, and there were her boilers cracked in two places the strain caused by her stern hanging on the fall of the twenty feet over the bed of the dock. Parkinson told my gineer to go to the proprietors at Gainsborough, and tell them of the seizure of the vessel. He said he could not without a letter, upon which, Parkinson wrote one, which is in my possession, and in which he states that the Vessel "has been

ed by a KING'S WARRANT (what a lie!) and is now in the custody of the Lessees of the Hull and Barton Ferry."

Of course my Packet could not run on the Sunday, and the excitement of the people against the Corporate Lessees was such, that they thronged the piers in thousands upon thousands the entire day, nor would they allow the Charter to land her passengers otherwise than by entering the Harbour and bringing to, on the Garrison side of the River Hull.

As soon as my engineer received the letter from Parkinson, he crossed the Ferry from Barton and very properly delivered such document to me. My astonishment at finding my Packet in the hands of the Monopolists may, without difficulty be imagined. I made immediate arrangement for crossing the Humber in a sloop, and in which trip I was accompanied by eighty passengers. On landing at Barton I lost no time in taking possession of my property and returned to Hull at my usual hour to the delight of, I should imagine, fifteen thousand spectators. As for the Charter, she wisely kept on the outside of the breakwater, landing her passengers in the harbour by boats.

There were a few stones thrown by the excited populace at the Charter during the day---but, however I may regret that circumstance, I feel called upon to observe, that until the forcible carrying away of my Packet, which the Public regard as the instrument of their delivery from an iniquitous imposition, the insults, the blackguardism, and the outrages of the Corporate Monopolists had been borne with a patience beyond all praise and exceeding, I am sure, the anticipation of even Parkinson himself. They who have for so many years robbed the public, and who have for so many weeks added insults to robbery and blackguardism to bullying, must not be surprised if they at length find that there is a point beyond which endurance must not be expected.

On Monday the same excitement continued and although the landing of the passengers by the Charter was effected, it was at some risk, and neither Captain nor Crew dared set a foot on shore. On this day also several stones it is stated were thrown upon the deck of the Charter. On her arrival at about half past twelve, I repaired to the Jetty end to enable her to and her passengers which however had been previously permitted in consequence of the address of one of them, a gentleman to whom I was known when at Bristol, and whose declarations of acquaintance with me, and detestation of Corporate corruption reconciled the honest fellows who were opposed, not to men, but to their vicious usurpation.

Out of these events have sprung a series of tom-fooleries on the part of the magistracy of this town, which have threatened its peace, and which may hereafter demand a more serious investigation into the competency of the worshipful gentlemen, to whom the preservation of order and the protection of property has been entrusted. Want of time and space compel me to restrict my notice of the transactions in question to the following documents in the order of their appearance; and on Tuesday next, I shall publish a "Portfolio extraordinary" of four pages, at one penny, in continuation of the subject. J. A.

SPECIAL CONSTABLES.

GUILD-HALL, 21st, NOV. 1831.

In the Mayoralty of Robert Raikes, the Younger, Esq.
AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAGISTRATES.

WHEREAS,

Information, on Oath, has been received, of a RIOTOUS and VIOLENT ASSEMBLAGE of ill-disposed Persons, in this Town, on SUNDAY, the 20th instant, to the great disturbance of the Peace, and terror of His Majesty's Subjects; in consequence of which, the Mayor and Magistrates have deemed it

expedient, for the preservation of the Peace of the Town, and the protection of the Persons and Property of the Inhabitants, to adopt necessary Measures for swearing in a number of SPECIAL CONSTABLES; and they hereby call upon the respectable Inhabitants of this Town and Neighbourhood, immediately to come forward and tender themselves for nomination, for the purpose of being sworn in as SPECIAL CONSTABLES accordingly; and the MAGISTRATES hereby give Notice that they will attend at the GUILD-HALL THIS DAY, until Five o'Clock, and TO-MORROW and WEDNESDAY, from Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon to Four in the Afternoon, to administer the Oath to those Persons who may offer their Services

By Order,

GEO. CODD, Town Clerk.

TO THE PEOPLE OF HULL.

MY FRIENDS,—You have ever found me your zealous, consistent, and dauntless advocate. I have a right, therefore, to expect that you are my Friends.

I have ever found you worthy the names of Men and Freemen, prompt to vindicate your rights, and ardent in your support of me as the humble instrument for their attainment.

I am, therefore, justified in claiming and calculating on your obedience to the voice of reason, and on your respect for my advice.

I am informed, on unquestionable authority, that the Corporators confidently expect to have me in Gaol this night. I shall not run from them. Let them take me. If their conduct be legal, well; if illegal, they shall hereafter rue it. At the worst, my detention will be but for a few days; and as habit is every thing, Corporate Gaols do not appal me.

You are aware that our sapient Magistrates have sworn in many Hundreds of Special Constables. They have their reasons for so acting. I believe them to be bad reasons, and I would thwart them—and, with your assistance, will turn the mischief they may contemplate, into an engine for their own legal destruction.

If I should be taken to Gaol, I shall be unable by active personal interference and exhortation to maintain the peace. The preservation of my character will be then in your hands. The success or failure of my many efforts to benefit you, will then depend on your conduct. Your acts will then decide whether you are to remain the oppressed serfs of a heartless oligarchy—for another century—or whether you are to rise, like the Phoenix, from the flame of desolation, to the vigor of renewed existence.

"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear!" He that hath reasoning powers to contra-distinguish him from the brute, let him attend. The peace of Hull is essential to the success of my labors on your behalf. Riot and outrage would assuredly defeat the glorious object so near to my heart and so dear to you—the restoration of your rights and the destruction of Corporate Despotism.

KEEP THE PEACE!

If you do, I should be happy in a dungeon. If you do not, I will leave you to your oppressors—the (slaves of your bad passions and the victims of your wilfulness)—the very day my of liberation.

Keep the Peace! I charge you!—respect the laws—despise the efforts of the lawless, high or low, to goad you to your ruin!—Nineteen twentieths of the whole population of Hull are our well-wishers in the legal proceedings by which we are seeking justice. Disgust not your friends by affording the Magistrates an excuse for ordering the Military to fire upon you.

Keep the Peace! if you would not lose

Your's truly, so long as you are true to yourselves,

JAMES ACLAND.

38, Queen-Street, November 23rd, 1831.

MEM:—The Whig Manifesto against Political Union of military organization, does not touch the Hull, and Sculcoate Union—a General Meeting of the Members of which will take place on Monday Evening next at Eight o'Clock. J. A.

TO THE BURGESSES OF HULL.

The following important document now lies at my Office, No. 38, Queen-Street, for the Signatures of such of you as may approve it. JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN AND BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.

FORMAL PROTEST AND DECLARATION OF THE BURGESSES OF THE TOWN AND BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.

WE, the undersigned Burgesses of the Town and Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull, do hereby SOLEMNLY PROTEST against the further pursuance of vexatious measures in the Collection of the various *Toll Imposts claimed by you*, on behalf of the Corporation of this Borough; and in case you deem it necessary as our *Stewards and Trustees* to try the question at Law, we do most solemnly further protest against the wholesale attacks upon the poverty of the STALL-KEEPERS and others (who resist the payment of such Toll) by the continued multiplication of the legal proceedings so wantonly and vexatiously commenced; but that the question at issue be tried in the person of any one individual whom you may select for that purpose, and thus settle the disputed point of LEGAL RIGHT, and allay the cause of (so improperly created) excitement, without involving us, as Members of the Corporate Body, in the odium and disgrace that so strongly exists in the breasts of our fellow-townsmen by the proceedings already adopted. WE DO FURTHER DECLARE, that it is our firm conviction that by further pursuing the arbitrary and *exorbitant demands* persisted in with respect to the TOLLS IN THIS BOROUGH, the excitement in the public mind will, in all probability, be accompanied by a disturbance of the *Public Peace*; and as, under the existing law, we are liable in such event to be called upon to act as SPECIAL CONSTABLES, we do HEREBY DECLARE the STRONG RELUCTANCE with which such call will be obeyed; being satisfied that we shall be required to protect the Persons and Property of those only, who, by their actions as a Public Body, have rendered themselves obnoxious to the Public weal and deservedly unpopular, and which, by the prudent adoption of reasonable measures, may, WITHOUT DIFFICULTY, BE AVOIDED.

CHARITIES OF THE GUILD, OR FRATERNITY OF THE TRINITY HOUSE OF KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.

(Continued from page 124.)

The Corporation of the Trinity House out of the funds under their control support six Almshouses or Hospitals in Hull, containing altogether ninety-nine apartments, for superannuated seamen above fifty-two years of age, the wives of such of them, as are married, and widows of seamen, and give various stipends and allowances to the different inmates; they also maintain a Marine school for thirty-six boys, sons of seamen, from eleven to fourteen years of age, who are clothed, educated and supplied with all books and necessaries used in the school; they pay weekly and quarterly pensions to several out-pensioners of different classes (at the time of this enquiry 484 in number) being seamen and seamen's widows or fatherless children; and they give weekly temporary relief to a great

number of poor seafaring people, and their families, and shipwrecked seamen, at the discretion of the Warden for the time being.

All the six Almshouses as had either been built or rebuilt and renewed by the Corporation, except Watson's Hospital, of which six rooms only belong to the Trinity House.

An enumeration of the different, and an amount of the several stipends and allowances, to the alms people and pensioners is contained in the appendix. One of the Hospitals, called Ferns's, has been lately erected and completed, on a large and commodious plan, and at an expence of about £2000. It had been in use about a quarter of a year before September last, and the persons who occupy the apartments in it had been previously out-pensioners. In consequence of the expence of erecting this Hospital being defrayed, the Trinity House will probably be enabled to distribute and apply a still larger fund annually than heretofore, in charitable purposes.

A statement has been supplied and is given in the appendix of the average expenditure on account of the several charities maintained by the Trinity House for ten years. The disbursements for those purposes may perhaps be considered fairly adequate to the income derived from the sources which have been noticed and described, as peculiarly connected with charitable objects, if regard be had to the general description of the purposes for which the duty of primage (the largest branch of income) was given or confirmed to the Trinity House, and the discretion invested in them by the Charter of King Charles the Second. It has not been the practice of the Corporation to distinguish particularly the application the revenues above described, from their other branches of income, or strictly to appropriate any given yearly sums to the maintenance of the several charities under their administration; there seems no reason however to believe, that the charitable funds under the dispensation of the Trinity House, would be more beneficially administered under any different method than that which is now and has always been followed, and it may be questioned perhaps whether a more specific application of the several branches of income would be more practicable.

(The continuation of the Charities in my next will commence with most important tables with reference to the income and expenditure of the Trinity House. J. A.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO,

SIR,—It has been currently reported that there is much dissention among the Aldermen, and that some of them have thrown up their gowns, determined not to be associated in the commission of the peace with men guilty of trampling, not only upon justice, but upon law,—upon the law of which they are the appointed guardians, and which they are sworn to administer fairly and impartially.

It is much to be regretted that there should be any ground of dissension among the Aldermen, but as there is just ground, I am glad that some worthy Aldermen are determined to keep their hands clean, and thus to rescue the Town from the disgrace of having it said, that Hull is governed by men who, instead of setting an example of respect and veneration for the laws of the Country, have set themselves above the laws, and treated them with supreme contempt.

I hope it will not be thought impertinent to enquire if Mr. W. W. Tolton has paid Mr. Leonard's account, and has your correspondent's Plebs satisfied the worthy alderman, that the statute of limitation cannot alter the Justice of the debt, though it may enable him to set as creditor at defiance? After dabling for so many years in justice and law, has the worthy alderman yet to learn that the law cannot alter facts---that a just debt is a just debt whatever the law may say, and that a just debt is not discharged until the money is paid.

But the timber job; whose job is it? Can Mentor clear his worthy friend, the alderman, from this foul imperfection, by declaring to whom this job does belong? What says the worthy alderman himself? Does he deny that he ever had a job of the nature of this imputed timber job? or does he point to it as a sample of his disinterestedness---or as proof of the purity of his principles, of which Plebs, rather unceremoniously represents him as 'bubbling' with so much complacency? Does he boast of it as a bargain, well calculated to convince the burghesses, that they did well to elect him one of their stewards, and not too for LIME; for be it remembered, the burghesses cannot deprive an alderman of his stewardship, however unjust or illegal his conduct be. Whether the timber job is or is not a misrepresentation, enough has been said to show that such a bargain is possible, and the bare possibility proves that the private conduct of public men is not a matter of perfect indifference to the Public.

NEMO.

I dissent from this opinion of my correspondent. J. A.

MAM:—It will indeed be most strange if all the members of the corporate body should be opposed to the just claims of the people. But I fear there are but few who are not. I know there is one: think there are two; but I much question whether there are so many as three. J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

Hull, Nov. 14th, 1831.

SIR,—Since we have now---what has long been wanted in Hull---a medium, through which to make our grievances known (and to the party aggrieved, this is at all times a source of considerable gratification,) permit me, through the most extensively circulated publication in this town, "The Hull Portfolio," to make a few remarks on the charges made on the Inhabitant Householders of the parishes, by those whose duty it is in the present stagnant state of trade, to economise in the management of the Parish affairs, to the greatest possible extent. Whether they have done so or not, or whether they might, or might not have done so, will be seen in the subsequent statements. I shall not stop to enquire whether the parish patronage is equally and impartially dispensed, or whether the loaves and fishes are reserved for the especial mastiff of certain favorites. I would hope that in the distribution of this patronage, 'as it ought to be in that of every public institution'---no respect is paid to persons, professions, or creeds. Of the various charges connected

with the in-door expenditure of the Poor House no exact calculation can be made; nearly all of them must of necessity be left to the honesty of those individuals who are properly or improperly termed Guardians; but there are one or two items in this list which require a more particular elucidation.

The first is under the head of "Incidental Charges."

This, Sir, is to most public Treasurers, a very convenient envelope: but those who are called upon to pay, have a right---and a reasonable one it is---to a more satisfactory explanation. The time has gone by, when even the sum of £45. 17. 4½. (see the "Annual Statement.") might have been concealed under the Juggling System of "Incidentals," "Miscellaneous," "Sundries," &c. &c. The next objection I have is to the charge of £25. in this and the next list, by Mr. West, Surgeon. I am not contending for the injustice of this charge *per se*, but on principle. Mr. West then, is, and has been charging too much, or the late Mr. Betty, Surgeon, charged too little (rather unlikely) for medicine and attendance. In 1827, Mr. Betty, Surgeon, charged the Parish £8. "the average weekly number of paupers being seventy-six." In 1828, Mr. West Surgeon, charged the Parish £15. 15. (nearly double) "the average weekly number of paupers being seventy-four!" In 1829 Mr. West, *increases still further* his charge to £25. (the sum at present paid) although "the average weekly number of paupers is reduced to seventy-two!"

Thus we have a gradual decrease of the number of paupers, with a gradual increase of charge for medicine and attendance.---What an anomaly! If the late Mr. Betty could attend, and supply medicine to a weekly average of seventy-six paupers for £8. why give Mr. West £25. for the same, to a weekly average of seventy-two? Answer this, ye Guardians of the poor, who ought to be at the same time, guardians of the Parish Purse.

"For Old Rope, and for teasing Oakhum," the parish is charged £67. 7. 4. for which it receives in return---for Oakhum £59. 13. 4. and for the Earnings of the Paupers £12. 19. 8. leaving a balance in favor of the Parish of £5. 5. and this pitiful sum is all it gains by the labor of the Poor!

To Nurses of Illegitimate Children £318. 17. 6.

Received from their Fathers 215. 3. 0.

Difference £103. 14. 6.

to be paid by the fathers and others, who have children and relatives of their own to keep. Surely the Guardians, aided by the Police, with the sacrifice of a little time might spare the parish the annual cost to Lawyers and Constables £147. 13. 4. What their services were we are not informed; it is enough for us that we pay the Tax-gatherer when the money is demanded! Why do not the parishioners form a Guardian Society---a parish Union---or some other association, to watch over and protect their own interests, and not commit so important a trust to the guardianship of a set of individuals, who by their actions---and they form the best criterion of the characters

and conduct of all men—have proved themselves but indifferent Stewards.

Treasurer, Assistant Overseers, Master and Matron's Salary—£290. What! must the Treasurer receive a stipend? Is there no Banker, or "Public Spirited" friend in the parish, in whom equal confidence could be placed, who would accept and perform the duties of this office gratis? The confidence reposed in him by his fellow townsmen, and the honorary office, might have been deemed a sufficient remuneration.

Annual subscriptions to the Infirmary £5. 5.

For the present this sum ought to be withheld—the Institution is groaning under the weight of its *Subscriptions, Dividends, Legacies, Benefactions, Collections, Rents, 3 per Cents, 4 per Cents, &c. &c. &c.* When the funds of a charity can be appropriated to such purposes as follow, it is no longer a charity to contribute to their Porter's hat and livery £5. 15. 9. This is a sum many tradesmen cannot afford to expend on themselves in cloathing. Gardiner's Note £18. Prosecuting for Libel £41. 5. A Gratuity £105. Wages and Gratuities £225. 0s. 1d. Total £395. 10. 10.

It is true that the Governor of this Institution exercises a most unfair and partial preference in the dispensation of its favors amongst the tradesmen. That this is the fact is too notorious, and requires no demonstration.

The inducement or temptation held out by one set of Governors to the other, to rob the parish, is pretty evident from the whole tenor of the subjoined extract.—"Parish Officers may become Governors on subscribing Five Guineas per Annum."—*Infirmary Report.*

Allow me to subscribe myself,

Your's respectfully,

A PARISHIONER OF SCULCOATES.

TO THE PEOPLE OF HULL; AND ESPECIALLY TO THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL UNION.

THE Council of the Political Union have this day had an interview with the Mayor and a Bench of Magistrates, drawing their attention to the present excited state of the Population of Hull—offering the services of the Members of the Union in preservation of the Peace and in protection of Property—and deprecating the calling out of Special Constables, as calculated to aggravate the popular discontent.

The Magistrates replied in general terms that they should act as they thought proper under the circumstances. I tendered my personal services as a Special Constable, on the ground, first, that I possessed the confidence of the people; and, secondly, that not being a Resident Householder, they could not by law compel me to serve. This offer the Magistrates declined.

But I will be the preserver of the Public Peace—and I charge you as you value your lives—as you regard your liberties—as you desire justice—as you respect me—**KEEP THE PEACE!** Let not your enemies triumph over you. **KEEP THE PEACE!** Do not justify the calling out of Special Constables by those who have EIGHT HUNDRED A YEAR dependant on the FERRY MONOPOLY, and TWO THOUSAND A YEAR on the TOWN TOLLS.—**KEEP THE PEACE!** and both the impositions will be put down. **KEEP THE PEACE!**—and PUBLIC ORDER must be triumphant—and Local and National Reform certain.

JAMES ACLAND.

HULL, November 21st, 1831.

ANTI-TOLL-ASSOCIATION.

MEM:—The Corporators will assuredly be beaten—if the Associators can raise a fund of £1000.—and of which no reasonable doubt exists. The Rockingham of last week talks about a compromise. Shall we compromise with dishonesty? Shall we agree to pay an illegal penny to those who have so long (and for fifteen years criminally) exacted an illegal seven-pence? Is such a compromise honest? Is it's recommendation honorable? We say the tolls are illegal. If the Corporation can shew them to be legal, we will willingly pay them; if they cannot do so we will pay them nothing. But, say the advocates of a compromise, the funds will be needed for beneficial purposes. Then let the guttling Aldermen refund the amount they have so disgracefully abstracted from the Town's purse for the gratification of their sensual appetites. The repayment of the sum so embezzled would enable honest men or repentant rogues to do an infinity of good to those whose trustees they are, and whose trust-monies they have applied so prejudicially, that they dare not publish an account of their expenditure. Compromise indeed! Aye! let the Corporators try it! Perhaps their Town-clerk is simple enough to advise it. Will the Collector's acceptance of the reduced toll prove the payment of one common and invariable toll? Answer this lawyer Codd! And yet your emissaries are running about—respectable tradesmen as they would fain be considered—to persuade the market-people to pay a small sum—a reasonable sum as they call it forsooth! That which is legal, let the Corporators demand; if they expect more, though but the thousandth fraction of a farthing they shall not have it, if I can prevent it. They are not in a situation to claim the favorable consideration of those they have wronged, insulted and persecuted. They are of the class of beggars, if their pride be brought to that which should be referred to the Charity-Hall for justice albeit they might have to earn their breakfast before they ate it. A compromise with such men would be akin to that folly which should arm the footpad with a pistol as a reward for having frightened you out of your money by placing a brass candlestick at your head.

Mr. Lee must know better. Every line of his able articles on this subject proves his inconsistency in recommending a measure which is not only unjust, but which could neither be permanent nor even temporarily efficacious.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

HULL, November 16th, 1831.

SIR,—In No. 14 of your 'Portfolio,' I unexpectedly noticed a letter dated at York, signed "Insticia," referring to the prosecution against me for a libel, that of course some time ago; in which letter the writer expresses wish to know, whether or not that prosecution arose from the illegal demand made on me, by those very worshipping Aldermen, Wm. Hall and C. Bolton in their capacity of Commissioners of Taxes. To this enquiry, I reply in the affirmative, and will now proceed to shew in what manner

Your readers are already aware that I addressed a Memorial to the Lords of the Treasury on the subject, and that in consequence thereof, the money was paid back to me by Mr. Tindall, Receiver-General of the Taxes. As a matter of course, I made no secret of the success of my application for redress, so that it became a topic of conversation. Well now, how did these *worshipful* Commissioners act under these circumstances, think you? Why you will naturally reply, that as men of honor, they were bound to apologise to me, or at least express their regret that they had inadvertently fallen into error. Nothing of the kind! So far from this being the case, vile calumny was added to gross injustice; for their tools (doubtless instructed so to do) represented me as a liar and propagator of false intelligence. They boldly denied that the money had been refunded to me, and the "loyal" Gentry very *sapiently* observed, that "It was very improbable indeed, that Ministers should interfere with the constituted Authorities of Hull!" After having been cruelly robbed by them in the manner related in No. 10, of your Portfolio, and my character for veracity thus basely traduced, did it not become me to vindicate myself and expose the conduct of my *worshipful* Oppressors? I thought it did, and accordingly published an accurate statement of this foul business; but in terms more moderate and decorous perhaps, than the occasion called for as the sequel will shew.

For this publication, I was indicted for a libel at the Hull Quarter Sessions, and a true bill was found by the Grand Jury, against John Jackson, *Labourer*! Under this *correct* designation of me, it was announced to the public, by my *patriotic* neighbour the "Rockingham" as well as by others. Had I been indicted for horse-stealing instead of libel, the result perhaps would have been the same. My prosecutors thought proper to remove the case by *coramurari* to the Court of King's Bench. Whatever their motives for so doing may have been, it inevitably brought on me a heavy expense. I was then bound to appear at the York Assizes for trial of the alleged offence. When the case was called on, at the ensuing Assizes, only one special Juror appeared, and the trial was postponed. Thus I was dragged to York a second time, when I found Scarlett, Hullock and Tindall were arrayed against me as Counsel for the prosecution. I however resolved to plead my own cause, notwithstanding I had to cope with such formidable opponents; for "Thrice is he armed who hath his quarrel just." Never did I sleep more soundly than on the night preceding my trial, if it may be so called.

After waiting some time in Court, my case was brought forward. The special Jurors were called on; part of whom appeared, and a *tales* being prayed, the Jury was completed and sworn in. Strange as it may appear, they were proceeding in the trial *without ever calling for me*. I felt some little interest in the matter, and applying to the Crier of the Court, said, "Why you have *forgotton* to call me, but I suppose I shall be permitted to take my proper station" he replied "O yes, if you chuse." I then took the place, which had been occupied by Mr. Hunt on his trial, and threw down my Radical Hat, and

papers on the green table. Mr. Scarlett (now Sir James) made a very pretty opening speech, expatiating on the great blessings resulting from the appointment of local Commissioners of Taxes, who he said were most respectable persons. In fact from the whole tenor of his speech, it might have been supposed that those *worshipful* Gentlemen were the defendants in this case. He took especial care however not to put his finger on the sore spot. Then as to myself, so far from establishing the charges brought against me in the indictment, he, in effect, denied them. After perusing part of the alleged libel, he observed that it had been written by me when in an angry mood, but added he "not that I mean to impute to Mr. Jackson any thing further." Notwithstanding this admission, the first witness for the prosecution was called on, and questioned by Counsel. Then came my turn to cross-examine him, which I did in a tone and manner, that seemed to amuse much the venerable Judge. I longed to have the cross-questioning of the second witness, the *worthy* Surveyor of Taxes, John Walker, but that gratification was denied me; for as soon as I had done with the first witness, the Judge interposed, and addressing the Counsel, said in an under tone, "This is a case which cannot be further proceeded in." But how to get rid of it, was now the question! I, as Counsel for myself, declined finding a *flaw* in the indictment; however Mr. John Williams, who was at my elbow, determined to do it, and, of course, succeeded. While this was going on, a Reporter behind me, whispered in my ear, "You have nothing to fear; it is all over." And so it was; the Judge directed the Jury to find a verdict for the defendant, which was accordingly done, and thus the trial ended. Some perhaps will consider this narrative as tedious, but if so, they do not reflect sufficiently, that this is a matter which seriously affects the community at large. If I am to be thus treated with impunity by those who have sworn to administer the laws, what safety is there for any other person? When Empson and Dudley were brought to account for their abominable exactions on the people, they pleaded (and truly pleaded) the law in their defence, but it did not avail them, and they justly suffered Death. But what law, will my *worshipful* Oppressors plead, if they are put on their defence? How stands the case too in regard to the Grand Jury, who found a true Bill against me, and swore that I was "a labourer"? Were they not the abettors of injustice and oppression? Did not Judge Bailey and Mr. Scarlett, both censure them indirectly, by kicking out the indictment as they did? As however they are "honorable men—all honorable men," they can have no objection to my publishing a list of their names, which, with your permission, I intend to do, in a future No. of the Portfolio. To conclude this long letter, I beg to ask, by what means I shall obtain redress for the grievous wrong I have suffered. I seek not revenge but Justice; which if possible, I will obtain.—It will be clearly understood, that as yet (though I have claimed it,) I have received no compensation whatever!

Yours sincerely,

J. JACKSON.

A COPY OF THE CHARTER GRANTED BY
KING CHARLES THE SECOND TO THE
TOWN OF HULL, DATED THIRD OF
DECEMBER, ONE THOUSAND SIX HUN-
DRED AND SIXTY ONE.

(Continued from page 128.)

AND FURTHERMORE, the late Queen of her more abundant special grace, the same her Letters Patent hath granted unto the said Mayor and Burgesses, that they and their Successors yearly might have, hold, and keep yearly for ever within the said Town or Borough in any convenient place to be appointed from time to time by the said Mayor and Burgesses and their Successors one Fair or Mart yearly, and every year, to begin and commence on the 16th day of September, to continue together with a Court of Pypowder, and all and singular Tolls, Tributes of all, and all manner of Merchandise, Victuals, and all other things whatsoever within the aforesaid Markets and Fair, or any of them, from time to time sold and bought, Custom, Usage, Profits, Commodities and Emoluments whatsoever to such Markets, Fairs, Marts, Pypowders Court belonging, appertaining, happening, chancing or growing, notwithstanding that the aforesaid Markets, Fair or Mart, or any of them be not to the hurt of the neighbouring Markets, Fairs or Marts, as by these Letters Patent remaining upon record amongst others it is fully evident and may appear; and which Letters Patent, and all and singular things above, in form aforesaid given or granted, we for us our Heirs and Successors to the aforesaid Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid, and to their Successors, do ratify and confirm by these Presents.

AND FURTHERMORE, we will, and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors firmly require and command, that they the said Mayor and Burgesses and their Successors freely, peaceably and quietly, may have, hold, engage and keep the aforesaid two Markets every week on Tuesday and upon Friday as aforesaid to be held; and the aforesaid Fair or Mart yearly upon the 16th day of September, and to endure by 15 days then next following as is aforesaid, to be holden together with the aforesaid Court of Pypowders; and all Tolls, Tributes, Customs, Assesses, Profits and Emoluments whatsoever, to such like Markets, Fairs or Marts, and Court of Pypowder appertaining, happening, belonging or chancing, and this without molestation, interruption, or hinderance of us, our Heirs or Successors, or of our Sheriffs, Escheators, or other Officers or Ministers of us our Heirs or Successors whomsoever; yet the aforesaid Markets, Fairs, or Mart, shall not be to the hurt of others neighbour Markets, Fair or Mart, as is aforesaid. We have also granted, and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors we do give and grant to the aforesaid Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid, and to their Successors for ever, that none of

them shall be impleaded before us, or our Heirs, or any of the Justices of us or our Heirs without the Town or Borough, of Lands or Tenements which he or they hold within the Town or Borough aforesaid, and the Liberty of the said Town or Borough, nor for any Trespass, Covenant and Contract, or other thing whatsoever done within the same Town or Borough, and the Liberties and Precincts of the same. And if any Burgess aforesaid, or any other will require any Land or Tenement, being within the Town or Borough aforesaid, or complain of any Trespass done within the same Town or Borough, in the Liberty and Precincts of the same he shall prosecute his Action right, and complaint before the Mayor and Sheriff of the Town or Borough aforesaid; and if that cannot be ended before then, it shall be ended at the Suit of the Plaintiff before such Justices as heretofore it hath been accustomed, and not without the same Town or Borough, or before any Justice of us, to this form as especially designed as heretofore it hath been accustomed: and that the Mayor and Sheriff of the Town or Borough aforesaid for the time being may hold for ever in the Guild-Hall of the Town or Borough aforesaid, all manner of Pleas, Suits, Plaints and Demands; also Actions personal and real and mixt whatsoever, within the Town or Borough aforesaid, and the Liberties and Precincts of the same, moved or to be moved; and they shall have the Cognizance of all Pleas of Trespass, Covenant and Contract whatsoever within the said Town or Borough, and the Liberties and Precincts howsoever done, happening or growing, as well within our presence as in our absence, of our Heirs and Successors, as well before our Justices of the Common Pleas, and Justices assigned to take Assizes, and Justices Itinerant, as before whatsoever Justices and Ministers of us and our Heirs, with all manner of profits of such like Pleas whatsoever coming so fully, freely and quietly, and in the same manner and form which the Mayor of the same Town or Borough, and Bailiffs for the time being, before the making of this our present Charter by force of divers Charters and Letters Patent of our Progenitors, sometimes Kings and Queens of England, heretofore made and confirmed such like Cognizance had, or such like Cognizance any time were accustomed to have without the let or hinderance of us or our Heirs, or of our Justices, or of our Heirs whatsoever, or of the Steward, or of the Marshall of our House, or of our Heirs, or the Escheators Sheriffs, or other Bailiffs, or Ministers of us our Heirs whatsoever, so that they the said Steward or Marshall of the Cognizance of Pleas, or of such Trespasses, Covenant or Contract within the Town or Borough aforesaid, and the Liberties and Precincts of the same growing, shall in no manner of ways meddle, nor any of them shall meddle, except only of Trespass Covenant, and Contracts in our House and of our Heirs, and done between those that are of the same House. *(To be continued.)*

THE Hull Portfolio;

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES ACLAND.
(EXTRA NUMBER.)

"Bonis nocet quisquis pepercerit malis."—CICERO.
HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY JAMES ACLAND, NO. 38, QUEENSTREET, HULL.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1831.

One Penny.

TO MY READERS.

IF there had been a Newspaper published in this Town, which was free from the charge of lending itself to my enemies and your's, for the purpose of misrepresentation, there would have been no occasion for this extra number of the Portfolio. But, when I vainly seek for an unbiassed and tolerably accurate report of the proceedings of the past week, and find only garbled statements and distorted facts, I deem myself imperatively called upon to stand forward in the vindication of truth, the exposure of falsehood and the refutation of calumny. To this end, I have now before me the Hull Advertiser of Friday, and the Rockingham of Saturday—to the contents of which Papers I shall proceed to direct your attention, making such extracts as demand observation, and subjoining, to each extract such remarks as may be calculated to inform you truly of that which has been by your precious Newspaper-Press imperfectly, inaccurately, deceptively, and, as it seems to me, malevolently imposed upon you.

THE HULL ADVERTISER.

I shall begin with a piece of blackguardly personal attack—because, I have determined never to encourage the lies of my enemies, by suffering them to pass unrefuted. The article in question is a double falsehood. The Editor of the Advertiser introduces a lie from another paper, and then excuses himself in so doing by stating as a reason, that which is as false as the paragraph he quotes. He says:

"The following paragraph, from the Lincoln and Newark Times we are, perhaps, bound to copy, as it gives a partial contradiction to a statement which we lately inserted:"—

"By sheer accident, the other day, we laid our hands upon a publication called the "Hull Portfolio," the editor of which,—one James Acland,—has the impudence to assert that he was retained by Mr. Tennyson to assist that gentleman during his canvass at the late contested election at Stamford. Now we can state on undoubted authority, that Acland was not retained by Mr. Tennyson,—in fact that he had no communication whatever with Mr. Tennyson. It is true that Acland was at Stamford during the election; and it is equally true

that he was in such a state of destitution, that a number of tradesmen raised a subscription in his behalf, which assisted him on his road to Spalding; where, after giving political lectures at one penny per head, in a barn, and exciting a disturbance in the place, he was soon scouted and ordered to go about his business."

In the first place let me deal with the Hull Liar. He had published nothing about my state of destitution at Stamford—nothing about my being at Spalding—nothing about my lecturing in a Barn, there or elsewhere at a penny. Such parts of the paragraph are falsely stated to be inserted in the Hull Paper *because they contradict what had been previously published therein.*

Now then, as it regards the Stamford Election. What I have written on that subject was taken from my Portfolio and published in the Advertiser, the Editor of which by a reference to his own paper of the 4th of last month (page 4. column 3.) will find the paragraph in contradiction of which he now publishes the above, to be as follows:

"The Grimsby election took place shortly after my arrival in Hull, and it being reported that Mr. George Tennyson, the eldest son of the member for Stamford (*in whose case I was zealously engaged*), would stand the contest, I repaired thither in the hope of advancing his interests."

This statement the Lincoln Editor falsely misrepresents—alleging it to assert that I was retained by Mr. Tennyson to assist him in his canvass. Is not the Lincoln Editor fairly chargeable with having made a lie for the purpose of giving it a contradiction? And is not the Hull Editor as fairly chargeable with having knowingly published the Lincoln lie in pretended contradiction of that which appeared in his own paper, and which it does not contradict, and which, if it did contradict, would be by as gross a distortion of truth as ever was conceived by the blackest heart, or the most malevolent mind?

"Sure such a pair were never seen!
"So aptly formed to lie, by nature!"

A few words on the real facts. I was "zealously engaged" for Mr. Tennyson at the Stamford Election. I was no retained by him—nor have I ever said or written that I was. The understanding between me

and Mr. Northouse the Editor of the Stamford News was a very simple one—namely that my expences should be paid. I neither asked, nor expected; nor received more. The Lincoln and Hull liars say that I had “no communication whatever with Mr. Tennyson.” At the invitation of that gentleman, I dined with him on three or four occasions. I shall only add, on this point, that such is my opinion of the political principles and high character of the Member for Stamford, that I should be delighted at any time again to fight, and again to beat the Boroughmongering faction under his standard.

As to Spalding, I was not in that town for more than a month after I left Stamford. My family were at Peterborough, and I joined them there. When I went to Spalding, I did not lecture in a Barn, but at a most respectable Inn—the charge being One Shilling. I never in my life lectured at a less charge than One Shilling.

There, liars! you have in black and white. Answer me if you dare. But if you would not deserve a kicking, do not repeat the experiment of falsifying that which I write, for the mere purpose of tailing such pretended contradiction with half a dozen newly concocted falsehoods of no imaginable reference the main subject.

I now proceed to matter more immediately interesting to those I address—the occurrences of the past week in the town of Hull.

“The present week has been one of excitement, almost unexampled in this hitherto peaceful town.”

The “hitherto peaceful” state of Hull is also a subject of remark by the Editor of the unblushing Packet. What a pity the hitherto quiet and peaceful state our town is thus disturbed! Such is the exclamation of these sapient scribblers. What admirable doctors they would make. The patient is senseless under a gradual sinking and rapid decay of the vital functions. All that is wanting to effect his restoration is the resuscitation of the vital principle. The doctors look on with admiration. “What a peaceful state?—and how quiet!” exclaim they. A physician from a distance comes in and produces a beneficial excitement. The patient awakes from his stupor—feels his strength—and thanks God for his recovery. The fools would bind him with cords to the bed of death. He resists. They would bludgeon him, and his physician! The former for submitting to restoration—the latter for daring to disturb the “hitherto quiet and peaceable state” of their profitable patient! *What quacks!!!*

“Whether the Tolls be abolished or not, can be a matter of little or no individual interest to the Members of the Corporation.”

Does the Editor of the Advertiser state this of his own knowledge? If he does he is wiser than his fellow townsmen. For my part I have yet to learn how

the amount of the Tolls collected is applied. Before I can feel assured that their abolition is of little or no individual interest to the Aldermanic body; I must be shewn how the wine, and the turtle, and the venison of the Aldermanic gorgings are paid for. Can the Editor of the Advertiser give me any information on this point? Can he deny that thousands of pounds—the property of the Burgesses—are annually expended by the Aldermen on the fattening of their carcasses—the filling of their skins and the lining of their purses? Will he persuade them to stake their integrity, their honor and their respectability on this test? Will he condescend to prove his own words? If he cannot, he should be made to eat them. If he can, I will eat mine. Let him except the challenge. It is fairly proffered; and that which he has written is true or false. If true, the Corporators are sadly calumniated; if false, the Editor of the Advertiser is the lying slave of Corporate speculators!

The Tolls at the North Bridge are amongst those objected to. That Bridge is, at present, maintained by the Corporation. The providing of materials for paving and keeping in repair, as well as for the cleansing of the Market-Place, and other parts of the town, is at present done at “the sole cost and charges of the Mayor and Burgesses, out of their Public Stock.” If the Tolls be abrogated, and the Mayor and Aldermen have no other funds legally applicable to this purpose,—(and we believe they have not,)—then, we presume, a Highway Assessment must be imposed.”

Pray give us a reason for your belief, Mr. Editor. I believe that the acts of the Aldermen belie the belief of their two-faced defender; and I appeal to the voracious guzzlers themselves whether the accounts audited last week do not show, that, what with law and sweet reads, the expenditure of last year has exceeded the receipts by many hundreds, and that such deficiency has been made good by the application of the rental of the property of the Burgesses, by their unfaithful Trustees? This is true or false. I have good reason for believing it to be true, and appeal to this year's Auditors—who kept the Mansion-House dinner cooling for upwards of half an hour, rather than sign accounts they had not even read.

It is an extraordinary coincidence that whilst penning the preceding paragraph, I received the subjoined letter, which comes in as well as if written for insertion in this very place:—

DEAR SIR,—I think you might do some good for the Toll fund if you were to notice the attempts which are evidently being made on behalf of, if not by, the Corporation, to persuade the Inhabitants of Hull that if the Corporation lose the Tolls the Inhabitants will have in some other way to raise funds for repairing Streets, cleansing the market place, &c. upholding the Northbridge, &c. &c. &c. (See the Town's Newspapers and the whining placard to “My fellow Townsmen” lately posted.)

The fact is that if the Corporation can prove that they do these repairs &c. in consideration of receiving the Tolls in dispute, they will then have established their right to the Tolls; if they cannot prove, (as I feel confident they cannot,) that the tolls have been granted them as the consideration of repairs

peace to them for doing the several repairs, and matters in question,—why then the Corporation will lose the Tolls but retain the liabilities they have always been under, and which were most likely incurred by them, for some other consideration.

Yours in haste,

THOMAS THOMPSON.

"In common with all our townsmen, both rich and poor, we feel deep interest in the preservation of the public peace; and it is decidedly the duty as well as interest of every class of inhabitants to unite in assisting the Magistracy to preserve order."

Assuredly it is so---if it be believed that such is really the object of our Aldermanic magistracy. If, on the contrary, a belief prevails either that their worship have an interest in provoking a breach of the peace, or that in their ignorance their attempts professedly to keep peace, are, in reality, but provisions for enabling them to keep £800 a year, the rental of the Ferry Monopoly, and £2,000, a year the estimated value of the Town and Market Tolls—then, it most certainly is *not* the duty of the inhabitants voluntarily to lend themselves to so unfit and imbecile a magistracy. Such I conceive to be the general feeling throughout the Town; or why have not the Corporation been successful in their call for the voluntary assistance of the householders? Why the issue of about thousand penal summonses? Why the order of the Hack Corporation for the attendance of the men in their employ in order to their being made *specials*? Why a similar order to the officers of Customs and Excise from their superiors? Why all this if the People of Hull really thought their magistracy acting in a manner calculated to serve order? Let the advocates of Aldermanic imbecility answer these questions—and, if they can, satisfactorily to their clients.

Ask the Magistrates what Public Opinion has told them during their process of swearing in their Special Constables. Ask them how many have declared they would not fight for the Tolls or the Ferry Monopoly. Ask them how many refused to take away their staves or being sworn in. Ask them how many declared they would knock the first man down with their special staves that should aim a blow at me. Ask them if they do not know that many of their Specials have the Corporate Crowns painted right side uppermost (it is, topsy-turvy) on their blue bludgeons. Ask them if they do not know that many of their Specials are immaculate these questions, and, if they answer yes, you will know why this appeal is made to your reprehensions by the Editor of the Advertiser.

To one dreams of my causing a riot, but those who are reason to dread popular feeling. None but the corporate devourers of the bread of the Burgess anti-breaches of the peace, which require a thousand Special Constables and loads of ammunition as preparatory measures. All but the Aldermen and their creatures know that the recent excitement originated in corporate illegality, and can be more speedily and effectually removed by measures of justice than by measures of severity—by repentance than by Aldermanic bludgeons.

If the corrupt Press and factious Editors say, write

and publish what they will, the people have had their eyes opened, and can see as far as a Hull Alderman (albeit with a quizzing glass) into a stone wall, or a magisterial trick.

I now come to the Advertiser's detail of the occurrences of Sunday last.

"Soon after the Public Opinion left Barton, the Royal Charter ran along-side, and made her fast with three ropes. Mr. Morley then went on board the Public Opinion, attached a copy of his warrant to the mast, and ordered the passenger on board the Charter, inadvertently following them himself."

This is *not* true. Morley and Bentley left Barton in my Packet and had executed the warrant before the Charter came up. What trouble some people take to obtain accurate information!

It may be proper to state here, that of all these proceedings the Hull Magistrates were wholly ignorant."

From whom could our impartial Editor have known this? Was it from Lawyer Codd? What an admirably impartial authority! Yet the Advertiser would play the hypocrite and assume the semblance of a disinterested historian. *Fudge!*

"Several inhabitants who had witnessed these disgraceful proceedings, made a report to the Magistrates."

"Disgraceful!" Mr. Editor? Why Sir, it would be equally disgraceful and not more so, whatever may be your opinion, to convict an Alderman of speculation or an Editor of subserviency. Was not the conduct of the constabulary stealers of my Packet more disgraceful? Yet on that you are mute? Every act of the people, forsooth is disgraceful—but a constable is a sort of nineteenth cousin to an Alderman—and nothing Aldermanic is disgraceful in the estimation of Corporate lick-spittles.

In pursuance of a resolution, at a Special Meeting, on Monday morning at which ten Aldermen were present, the inhabitants were called upon, by advertisements and otherwise, to come forward and tender their services as Special Constables. The appeal thus made has, we believe, been pretty extensively answered. During the greater part of Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, the Magistrates were in attendance, to swear in those who presented themselves, and adopt other precautionary measures.

The writer of the above paragraph was sorely taxed at this pinch. The inhabitants were asked to volunteer, and the Editor believes (how credulous some people are!) that they volunteered *pretty extensively*. The Editor's belief appears to me pretty considerably at fault on this occasion. Then, he would have the Public to conclude that the magistrates were occupied the greater part of three days in swearing the volunteers. Ingenious youth! Where then was the need for the thousand summonses to take an unnecessary oath or pay Five Pounds? Was tampering with the Press one of the precautionary measures? Are reporters ever honoured with private interviews in the Corporate Justice room? And why? Let Mr. Gawtress answer.

THE HULL ROCKINGHAM.

Mr. Lee's report of the seizure lays the scene of such event in Barton Haven, which shews the degree of the

investigation bestowed by that gentleman to have been pretty extensively small. He begins, continues, and ends in error and really appears to know nothing, or very little of the business.

"Mr. Acland, as is reported to us, went over the water in the evening accompanied by a determined set of associates, and having taken possession of the packet by force, cut her from her moorings and brought her back again in triumph to Hull, where she was again seized, and where she lay in custody of the admiral's messenger till Wednesday, on which day she commenced her accustomed trip under the direction of her former master.

When I went over to Barton on Sunday afternoon, many persons crossed the Ferry in the sailing vessel I had hired, and they paid three-pence each for their passage. What a determined set! When we arrived at Barton I took formal possession of my Packet without the assistance of any one. Nor was it until, alone, I had taken possession, that the passengers who desired to return by the usual evening trip, came on board. What dreadful force! When I brought her back to Hull, according to the account of Editor Lee, she was again seized. Why, there were two men—two journeymen ship-builders of Barton in possession, with the warrant on board, when I retook the Packet and these men I brought in her to Hull! As to the Admiralty messenger—he is a creation of the dreaming Editor—I have never yet seen him, nor heard of any one else being so favoured—with the exception of this veracious reporter. Here are as many conglomerations as lines! It is a medley of absurdities! *Poor Fellow!*

JAMES ACLAND.

TO GEORGE CODD—THE CORPORATE LAWYER.

SIR,—I beg your attention to the subjoined Resolutions of the Hull and Sculcoates Political Union last night. You can advise your masters to do as you think proper in the matter—for that will be six-and-eight pence addition to your Special Bill, and you can doubtless prove to them that there are ample funds for the payment of your little accounts whether, or not there may be any for the support of the North Bridge and repairing of the Market Street, without robbing the people of a Toll which your Counsel have declared to be illegal. JAMES ACLAND.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:—

1. That a vast majority of the people of Hull are estranged from the Corporate authorities of the Town, by reason of their illegal and oppressive conduct as its Local Magistracy.

2. That such misgovernment, so disgraceful to the town, destructive of mutual confidence and prejudicial to the trading and commercial interests, is consequent on the self election of the Governors, as secured to the Corporate Body by their exclusive Charters, an authority particularly calculated to induce a selfish feeling among those who ought to devote their every energy to the well being of the Community.

3. That the Aldermen being by virtue of their office, Magistrates, this Corporate selfishness begets

Magisterial injustice, engenders oppression, and perpetuates the system of domination and misrule which the people of Hull have so long endured, and under which they are at this moment so justly impatient.

4. That the conduct of the Corporation in their iniquitous multiplication of Actions against the Market People for the recovery of the Tolls which they have been advised by Counsel years since are not recoverable at law, is one of the most recent and direct causes of the present extraordinary excitement on the part of the people against their local rulers.

5. That the obstinate determination of the Corporators to maintain the Monopoly of the conveyance of passengers across the Humber at an exorbitant charge, years after they have been informed by Counsel that they have no right to such Monopoly, is also an immediate cause of the popular disaffection to the Corporate Monopolists.

6. That this disaffection has been materially increased by the recent proceedings of the Corporate Magistrates in swearing-in many hundreds of Special Constables without a reasonable anticipation of any necessity for such course.

7. That the magistrates have acted most unwisely in rejecting the tender made by the Council,—of the services of the Members of this Union, to assist in the preservation of the peace, and the protection of property in the event of their being endangered; and that their refusal of our Vice President's offer to be sworn in a special constable throws a strong doubt upon their professed desire to preserve the Peace of the Town.

8. That the Members of the Hull and Sculcoates Political Union notwithstanding the exasperating tendency of this conduct on the part of their Local Governors are determined to devote themselves severally and collectively as unsworn protectors of the public peace, and of private rights,—to the maintenance of the Laws of the realm and the support of right principles, and of the social order and happiness of the community.

9. That this Union congratulate the many collected thousands who, on Sunday week, manifested their detestation of the robbery perpetrated by the Corporate Constables, at the instance of the Corporate Lessees on the Public Opinion Steam Packet on that Sabbath morning before daylight,—on their patient forbearance under injury and insult and on their peaceable conduct under every possible aggravation.

10. That these resolutions be forthwith forwarded to the Home Secretary by the President, and that they be advertised in the Herald and Sun, London Newspapers, as a necessary step in vindication of the character of the people of Hull, from the malevolent aspersions of the Corporate press of Hull, and as a necessary measure redressing the wrongs of the people and securing permanent peace of the district.

MEM:—No. 15 of the Portfolio contains the whole of the Rules of the Union as agreed to at its establishment.

J. A

Hull Portfolio;

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES ACLAND.

“*Bonis nocet quisquis pepercit malis.*”—CICERO.
HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY JAMES ACLAND, SOLE PROPRIETOR AND
EDITOR, NO. 38, QUEEN-STREET, HULL.

Vol. 1.—No. 18.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1831.

Twopence.

TO THE PEOPLE OF HULL.

MY FRIENDS,

That the Corporation has long been a dead weight on the Commercial and Trading energies of Hull there can be little doubt. That it has been at once the agent and instrument of much injustice and oppression is not less generally admitted. Acts of gross dishonesty are daily charged and daily proved against its more ostensible members. The public esteem they have long since forfeited, and public forbearance has been extended to its utmost limit. The flagrant vices of these guardians of morality demand correction, and their illegal acts as the administrators of our laws forbid longer toleration.

As trustees for the Burgesses they have squandered their funds in rioting and extravagance. As magistrates they have abused their power and perverted their authority, destroying that confidence which is essential to the beneficial exercise of their magisterial influence. If it be enquired of what benefit they are to the community—the most ingenious of their advocates will be puzzled to give a satisfactory reply! Is it doubted by any that they are a curse to society—the catalogue of their criminality is but too notorious to afford to such doubt the slightest justification!

They are wealthy, but their superabundance benefits not the poor. They are liberal, but it is in the extravagance of selfishness. They are powerful and with this ability to protect the injured, they prefer to oppress the innocent. Instead of encouraging industry and enterprise, they paralyze the one and control the other. In a word, with every imaginable opportunity of good, they are the evil genii of our Town—their every intent unquestionable, and their every act prejudicial. They should be the inculcators of peace. What they are, theidium which attaches to their very name, sufficiently reclaims. Most truly may they exclaim, in the beautiful words of our liturgy, “We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done

those things which we ought not to have done—and there is no health in us.”

Such is our corrupt Corporation: yet is it not wholly destitute of admirers, or without defenders, or even advocates! The *Humber Mercury* affects to consider this incubis the *beau ideal* of every thing desirable—the quintessence of perfectability. But *Mercury*, with the heathens, was the God of lies, and they who in Hull, have ranged themselves under his name, do justice to the school in which they have sought excellence—and offer acceptable incense at the shrine of their Deity. The *Advertiser* inserts any trash for a consideration, hypocritically assuming a character for impartiality in order to the perpetuation of the existing system of misgovernment. The *Rockingham*—the Champion of Whig principles—the apostle of liberality—the “*would-be*” of the people—this organ of a political faction is ever the able advocate of that which is right, when it is not expedient to be otherwise. All these members of the Hull Press are at the service of the Hull Corporators when its destruction is threatened through the instrumentality of a stranger—to the endangering of their circulation and the reprobation of their culpable indifference to the injustice so long and so cruelly perpetrated against the many. The lies of the *Mercury* surprise nobody. The paltry efforts of the *Advertiser* to misrepresent and prejudice the truth under a *Charles Surface*-pretention to amiability amuses every body. The conscientious flounderings of the Editor of the *Rockingham* amaze without astonishing, and inasmuch as he is the only one among the Editorial gentlemen of our Newspaper Press who lays claim to public support on his consistent attachment to right principles, his observations and arguments on the merits and demerits of our precious Corporators demand our more especial consideration.

This gentleman is a WHIG, and, of course, deprecates the corruption of the Tory Corporation—and, also of course, my RADICAL hostility to existing abuses. There is a strange community of feeling between the Whigs and the Tories. They are alike enamoured of power, because it administers equally to the pride of

the one as of the other. They neither of them object to an abundance of good feeding at the expence of the poor. Each party has its *horde* of hangers on to provide for—and, therefore, to each, the advantage of place proffers a division of the spoil and incites to that party opposition and party hatred, which makes the success of either to depend on the defeat, if not the destruction of the other. Mr. Lee, as the Whig Editor, is consequently opposed to the abuses of the Tory Corporators. Does he therefore advocate the abolition of illegal tolls? By no means. Tolls are as sweet to the Whig as to the Tory, and hence Mr. Lee's earnest desire that a compromise between right and wrong should be effected. When the Tories are in authority over us, are not the Whigs ever laboring to oust them from office, in order that they may replace them? And when the Whigs are in power, do not the Tories wage a similar warfare against them? Where then is the difference between them? In the Councils of the nation who so loud against the expence of ten million per annum for a standing army in time of peace, as the Whigs in opposition?—Yet, now that they are in office, who so tardy in removing the injustice of which but recently they so loudly complained?

Let the people of Hull resolve these two questions:—1. Would not the Hull Whigs be glad to be Hull Corporators?—2. Would they desire to succeed to a profuse exchequer? The self-evident solution to these enquiries will show how and why it is that Mr. Lee advises those who have been robbed to compromise with those who have robbed them. Nor Mr. Lee alone. The feeling is of party extent, and what the Whig head-piece wills, the members of that body execute. Hence the recent activity of certain of our Tradesmen among the Market people. Hence their endeavors to divide the people that they may defeat the purposes for which they are associated. Hence the deputation to the Corporators on Wednesday.

The office of a *Go-between* is at all times a dangerous one—the rather when a principle of justice is at issue. When, on the one hand, there is a culpable pertinacity, in the infliction of wrong, and, on the other, a firm determination to obtain that which is right, it is scarcely possible, for the *Go-between* to escape the displeasure of either party. The voluntary mediators on this occasion, therefore, may reasonably expect to find, best if even they have been actuated by the (imaginable intentions) that they have failed in their effort, and with such failure, provoked the suspicion of having acted under an improper bias and with censurable motives.

The deputation were received on Wednesday, with every possible respect. They seem even to have been welcomed with joy and gladness—as the harbinger, of good. The chance of a compromise, if such a chance there were—would be a great chance for the Toll-men. No matter what the terms; any terms would be so much out of the fire—and therefore, most acceptable. But the *Go-betweens*, had at their previous meeting been taught that to talk of a compromise would be absurd, for that there must be consent on both sides, before

such object could be effected, and the Toll-payers were found to be unanimous in their resolution, not to pay one farthing, unless the party demanding that one farthing could shew a legal right to its receipt. Some honorable men—and prudent as honorable, refuse at such meeting to swell the number of the *Go-betweens*, and left the room more or less indignant at the half-and-halfness of the measures proposed.

I believe the first idea of the *Go-betweens* was that of persuading the market people to agree to the payment of one Toll per week, instead of three, May I ask why? Was it because it was just—or was it because it was expedient? I assert that the proposition is neither the one nor the other. It cannot be just to tax people without law; it cannot be expedient to enhance the price of provisions, or to throw obstacles in the way of the vendor of the necessaries of life, in a large town, and among a dense population. But this scheme failed—and the interview was to take place on hazardous principles. All that was to be had, was to be obtained as it might be, as a sort of creditable get out for the *Go-betweens*. So the deputation went to the Mansion House—and was ushered into the presence of the Magisterial Toll-men. What then transpired may be known hereafter; but it will be sufficient for our present purpose to state that the Mayor and Aldermen of Hull declared their willingness to act justly but were determined not to be compelled to do so by such a fellow as the writer of this article. In other words, they are resolved to continue their impositions and determined to rob that they may get fat—unless I will sanction their conduct, by winking at their iniquities! Amiable men! Worthy Magistrates! Patriotic Corporators! Honest Aldermen! Why, even the Whigs, could no more impudently oppose themselves to right principle than have these precious Tories. *Fellow*, indeed!—Before I would have fellowship with such fellows, I would betake me to the woods, feed upon hips and haws, and keep company with hedge-sparrows.

But the Corporators shall be compelled—and by me—to act legally; and, in this case to act legally is to act justly. Why, if I were to leave Hull this day, never to return, they would be under the necessity of giving up all claim to the Market and other Tolls, or of resigning their gowns to escape the disgraceful result of their outrageously extortionate conduct. I have happily succeeded in exciting and organizing a mob force, which dishonest men, though they may be Corporators, can neither destroy nor control. I repeat therefore that, by me, or by my instrumentality, they must sooner or later, be compelled to act with some appearance of respect for the property of others—with some deference to the laws of the land, and with some regard to the demands of justice! There FELLOWS, read and reflect.

The attention of our population is now very generally directed to the solution of the enquiry "What will the Corporators do?" For my part, I think it a matter of indifference. If they persist in their present course there will be another and more pressing question, "What will be done with our Corporators?" But

leave these categories for awhile, let me observe for the information of those concerned, and especially the three hundred members of the Anti-Toll-Association, that I believe the Corporate Toll-men have it in contemplation to relinquish their claim—or rather to transfer it to the Shop-keepers of the Market-Place—the latter charging or not charging, as they may individually please, those who occupy standings opposite their shops, for permission there to vend their commodities. Now, it needs no ghost to come from the grave to tell us this—that such scheme will not—must not succeed.

I admit that the occupying of the flags by the Market-people is a crying nuisance both to the Shop-keepers—and to those passing along the footpath on any other business than that of marketing. But if it is a nuisance, it is created or sanctioned by the Corporators so long as it is profitable to them. It was always a disgrace to the Town, and was the evil to which my earliest attention was directed, as may be seen by a reference to the first number of my Portfolio.

The idea of giving the Shop-keepers a vested interest in the continuance of this nuisance is worthy the muddled brain of a Corporate Town Clerk. But it cannot be permitted to be brought into operation. The Inhabitants of Hull have a chartered right to the possession of a Market. The Shop-keepers of our streets have a legal right to the free and unimpeded frontage of their houses—for use, but not for abuse. The passage along the pathway is a public right, and none but Corporators could advise the erection of nuisances for a pecuniary consideration. A nuisance is illegal; and, as no one can sell the privilege of violating the law, so, the Shop-keeper cannot, without incurring the liability of indictment, agree with the sellers of geese, eggs and butter, that on payment of such weekly sum they may impede the King's high-way, and erect their little standings on the pathway of the principal street and main thoroughfare of our Town.

The Market never should have been held in the open Street. Such practice in villages or small towns is all very well, but in such a place as Hull ought no longer to be tolerated. The Tolls will speedily be abolished, and then the Market nuisances must be abated. The Stalls on the outer edge of the Curb-stone, may be tolerated, but the occupation of the high road by empty carts, and the crowding of the flags with small standings, must be remedied in some way or other.

The tradesmen who waited on the magistrates are *Messrs. Moron, Davenport, Levett, Forrester, Mc. Turk, Lofthouse, Green and Miller*. It is said that they frittered away the real cause of complaint into a charge against the Collector; when, if they represent any body of reasonable men they should have been instructed to complain of the extortion involved in the demand of that which the law does not sanction. From what body were these eight gentlemen deputed—since they call themselves a deputation? Or, are they not rather a self-elected body, professing to represent those whom they do not represent, and to whose interests they are opposed? They may mean well—but the tendency of their acts is to assist the Corporation in riveting the chain of the Market and Town Tolls. If they do not intend this mischief, they will not be angry with me for endeavoring to save the thousands from this right. **JAMES ACLAND**

MRM :—The printers of the lying Packet, last week put forth a placard—of which I subjoin a copy that so fine a specimen of *Torn ignorance and impudence may be transmitted to posterity*. It need no other answer than events may furnish. **J. A.**

INHABITANTS OF THE GOOD TOWN OF HULL

Listen to a few words of Reason!

From one who has witnessed, with sorrow, the state of excitement and unruly conduct which has been shewn (quite contrary to their usual habits) by some of the lower classes, aided and abetted by those who should have known better their duty as Englishmen.

MY FRIENDS,

Inflammatory Addresses have been circulated, harangues made, and Associations formed; these have misled many unthinking persons into the idea that they were "doing service to God" and shewing "Goodwill to the Town" by taking the Law into their own hands, and fancying they could redress by tumult and violence any real or supposed grievance. It seems to me, Fellow Townsmen, that these seditious persons, and these mistaken Citizens, would long ago have been apprehended and punished according to law, had it not happened that the Magistrates of this Town have two duties to perform; one to themselves as Guardians of the Rights of the Burgesses, and another to the Town as Conservators of the Public peace.

This, Fellow Townsmen, can be the only reason why our Magistrates have not acted with more vigour; they may be blamed for not having acted immediately—but can this be any reason why they should not be supported when they do act.

But they have now put their shoulders to the wheel. The disorder of the Town is at an end!—The disgraceful scene of Sunday, when His Majesty's Mail was stopped, and the Guard assaulted and driven from his usual landing-place by an infuriated mob—these scenes, I say, are at an end. The ordinary Constables not being found sufficient for the preservation of the peace of the Town, the Magistrates are now swearing in Special Constables, to I know not what number.

These exertions, I trust, will keep the Town in Peace; but if not, as a Townsman I beg and beseech the well-affected, to abstain from being present as Spectators, should any tumult arise, as the innocent often, too often, suffer for the guilty.

And now, my Friends, let me ask you calmly,—Is it by Riots the claims of exemption from Tolls and Dues are to be substantiated? Are there two ways of settling this matter; one by the Laws of the Country, and another by the Law of a Mob? Your own reason must give the answer. Is it to be expected that the Corporation, who have received from time to time—nay, from time immemorial—certain Dues and Tolls, and which the present Members have received from their Predecessors, as a Public Trust which they have sworn to maintain; is it reasonable, that the Corporation who have to pay from these and other sources, many expences attending the well being of our Town, should give them up at the bidding of a riotous Mob? My Friends, the expence of paving many of the Streets, the repairing of the North Bridge, the maintaining of the Peace of the Town, are all defrayed by the Public Money lodged in the hands of the Corporation. And if you take this Money out of their hands, will not you have to pay it in some other way? and, to speak plainly, perhaps in a much dearer way? At any rate let the question be tried calmly and without excitement, and let not the lives and property of his Majesty's Subjects be endangered by Mobs and Riotous Persons, called together by wicked and designing Men, to attempt to intimidate the Authorities, and occasion anxiety and alarm to the Inhabitants of this hitherto peaceable and orderly Town.

Once more, INHABITANTS OF HULL! Do not let your peace and property be endangered by such riotous proceedings; investigate with temper, and in a respectable, quiet legal way; any supposed or real encroachment upon your rights or liberties; but as you value your own characters in society, as you value the happiness and welfare of yourselves and your families—as you value the character which the good Town of Hull bears in the nation—discountenance instantly the least approach to tumult and insubordination, and thus prove that you are the REAL friends of the peace and welfare of the Town.

Your sincere well wisher,

HULL, November 24th, 1831.

A TOWNSMAN.

APPENDIX TO THE CHARITIES OF THE GUILD, OR FRATERNITY OF THE TRI- NITY HOUSE OF KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.

(continued from page 132.)

RENTAL OF THE ESTATE GIVEN BY AL- DERMAN FERRIS TO THE TRINITY HOUSE, 1822.

IN THE TRINITY HOUSE.

Description of Messuages Lands, &c.	Occupiers' Names.	Rent. £. s. d.
Message or dwelling house	Robert Kirke	21 0 0
do.	Ann Stickney	21 0 0
do.	Samuel Faulding	21 0 0
do.	Eliz. Godmond	15 15 0

IN WHITEFRIERGATE.

Message and shop	Wm. F. Towers	39 15 0
do.	William Dixon	18 18 0
do.	Walter Webster	32 0 0
do.	James Wilkinson	50 0 0
do.	George Procter	50 0 0
do.	David Ramsay	30 0 0
do.	John King	38 0 0
do.	J. Hutchinson	70 0 0
do.	Francis Kennedy	34 0 0
Stables, Yard, &c.	John Foster	90 0 0
Message and shop	Samuel Taylor	44 0 0
do.	J. Wilkinson	64 0 0

His Majesty's Custom House	Commissioners of Customs	350 0 0
Message or dwelling house	William Todd	45 0 0
do. and shop	Thomas Brocks	55 0 0
do.	Antho. Eastwood	50 0 0
do.	H. H. Metcalf	38 0 0
Message and dwelling-house	William Bunney	30 0 0
do. and shop	Benj. Brooks	60 0 0
do. and dwell -house	William Livitt	45 0 0
do.	Francis Hall	42 0 0
do.	James Wimble	45 0 0
Message and shop	Wm. Newsom	35 0 0
do.	John King	41 0 0
do.	George Kitching	40 0 0
do.	Foster & Lambert	42 0 0
Message or dwelling-house	John Cotsworth	20 0 0
do. and shop	Matthews and Bingham	50 8 0
do. or dwelling-house	Mrs. Todd	36 15 0
do. and shop	William Parker	52 10 0
do.	T. & J. Brooks	60 0 0
do.	Robert Briggs	52 10 0

IN NEW DOCK STREET.

A yard and tenement	Jesseyman and Easton	31 10 0
A yard	John Earle	50 0 0

£1881 10 0

The above premises are held by tenants from year to year, except some few, of which leases for seven years have been granted; and except also the house let to the Commissioners of the Customs, which is now the Custom-House at Hull. This House was formerly used as an Inn, but being a very large building, there was considerable difficulty in obtaining the rent for it, and several of the occupiers failed on the premises. It is now let on a lease for 60 years, the Officers of the Customs refusing to take it for a shorter time, and there being no probability of letting it more advantageously.

RENTAL OF PROPERTY GIVEN BY DOCTOR THOMAS WATSON TO THE TRINITY HOUSE, 1822.

IN LOWGATE.

Description of Messuages, Lands, &c.	Occupiers Names.	Rent, £. s. d.
Message and shop	Henry brown	53 0 0

AT FERRIBY.

A farm-house and lanps	Stephen Gray	69 0 0
A Cottage	John Smith	3 10 0

£72 10 0

RENTAL OF PROPERTY PURCHASED BY THE TRINITY HOUSE WITH MONEY GI- VEN BY THE WILL OF WILLIAM WATSON, GENTLEMAN, 1822.

AT THORPE BRANTINGHAM.

Three closes of land	George Atmar	37 7 0
The property given by Alderman Ferris for the last ten years has produced an average annual rent of		1662 10 3

The property at Ferriby given by Doctor Thomas Watson, Bishop of Saint Davids, has produced for the last ten years an annual average rent of		69 0 0
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The yearly rents or acknowledgments for two small pieces of land at Ferriby, let Sir Henry Etherington, deceased, and Mr. Thomas Jackson, amount to		2 6 2
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Rent of Cottage at Ferriby, let to John Smith		3 10 0
---	--	--------

The house in Lowgate, given by Bishop Watson, for the last ten years, has produced an average annual rental of		37 4 0
--	--	--------

The land at Thorpe Brantingham, for the last ten years, has produced an average annual value of		33 1 2
---	--	--------

The primage of 3d. per ton, has for the last ten years, averaged, annually		3374 71
--	--	---------

An annuity of £40. given by Justinian Angel, Esquire, issuing out of the Tolls of the Light-houses of Spurn, for the support of the poor of the house		40 0 0
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	£.	s.	d.
Amount of monies collected under the Act 20. George the Second, and applied towards the maintenance and support of the pensioners, under the head, Merchant Seamen's Hospital, was, for the year ending September, 1822.	690	17	11
Out-rent of 5s. per annum paid by the heirs of John Caddy	5	0	
Out-rent of 3s. per annum, given by William Porter, and for which 1s. per annum, is paid to the Trinity Church	2	0	
	£5913	1	11

HOSPITALS, STIPENDS, PENSIONS, PAYMENTS AND EXPENCES.

<i>The Trinity House contains thirty-four Rooms,</i>			
For younger brothers and their widows, with a weekly allowance of 7s. each	618	17	0
Annual consumption of coals, in the said house, viz. about 102 chaldron at 20s. per chaldron, cost and carriage	102	0	0
<i>Robinson's Hospital contains six Rooms,</i>			
For younger brothers and their wives, with a weekly allowance of 10s. 6d. each	163	16	0
Annual consumption of coals in the said Hospital, about 16½ chaldron, or 20s. per chaldron, cost and carriage	16	10	0
<i>Marine Hospital contains nine Rooms whereof eight are appropriated,</i>			
For seamen and their wives with a weekly allowance of 7s. each	145	12	0
<i>And one Room,</i>			
For a single seamen with a weekly advance of 4s. 6d.	11	14	0
Annual consumption of coals in the said hospital, about 24½ chaldron, at 20s. per chaldron, cost and carriage	24	15	0
<i>Watson's Hospital contains six Rooms,</i>			
For the widows of sea-faring men, with a weekly allowance of 4s. 6d. each	70	4	0
Annual consumption of coals in the said hospital, at about 16½ chaldron, at 20s. per chaldron, cost and carriage	16	10	0
OUT PENSIONERS.			
22 with a weekly allowance of 3s. 6d. each	200	4	0
2 do. do. 2s. 6d. do.	13	0	0
2 do. do. 2s. 0d. do.	10	8	0
33* do. an annual do. £1. 0. do.	133	0	0
56* do. do. £1. 10. do.	84	0	0
41* do. do. £2. 0. do.	82	0	0
10* do. do. £2. 10. do.	25	0	0

	£.	s.	d.
To the pensioners marked * are distributed two bags of coals, and 2s. each in the depth of winter; 20 chaldron of coals at 20s. per chaldron, cost and carriage	20	0	0
Cash to 240 pensioners at 2s. each	24	0	0
ANNUAL ALLOWANCE.			
To an elder brother, being reduced in circumstances	45	8	0
Two elder brother's widows do. { £30 0 } { 27 6 }	57	6	0
Another Jo. do.	27	0	0
The daughter of an elder brother do.	11	0	0
An assistant	22	7	6
Besides weekly temporary relief, distributed to a number of sea-faring poor and their families, and ship-wrecked seamen, at the discretion of the Warden, amounting on an average, annually for the last ten years to	257	0	6
The Marine-school, wherein are clothed and educated thirty-six boys, for the service, who remain therein for the term of three years, at an average annual expence for the last ten years of	217	14	11
Sundry disbursements, in contracts for buildings, land surveyor's salary, law expences, &c. &c. amounting on an average, annually for the last ten years, to	603	16	0
N. B. This includes also the expences of erecting Ferris's Hospital which amounted to about £2000.			
Sundry tradesmen's notes for the repairs of the Hospitals, and of the different houses belonging to this Corporation, amounting on an average, annually, for the last ten years	712	6	3
Surgeon's bills, for attendance on the pensioners, on an average, annually for the last ten years to	70	0	
The household expences, which include various charges, connected with the internal economy of the Hospitals, officers salaries, &c.	829	5	1
N. B. This item is more fully explained in a following Schedule, intituled, "Household Expences, &c."			
<i>Merchant Seamen's Hospital, contains twenty-two rooms, twenty whereof,</i>			
For seamen and their wives, with a weekly allowance of 7s. each	364	0	0
<i>Two Rooms,</i>			
For single men, with a weekly allowance of 4s. 6d. each	23	8	0

		£.	s.	d.
Annual consumption of coals, in the said				
Hospital 73 chaldron 3 bags, at 20s.		73	2	6
per chaldron, costs and carriage amount to				
81 out-pensioners at £1. 4. each		97	4	0
87 do. do. £1. 14. do.		147	18	0
76 do. do. £2. 4. do.		162	4	0

244

To the above pensioners are distributed				
two bags of coals, and 2s. each, in				
winter; 20 chaldron of coals at 20s. per				
chaldron, cost and carriage amount to		20	0	0
Cash paid to 244 pensioners, at 2s. each		24	8	0

£5531 16 3

Ferris's Hospital contains twenty-one Rooms, three of which are

For younger brothers and their wives, with				
a weekly allowance of 10s. each		81	18	0

Eight Rooms,

For single men or widows, with a weekly				
allowance of 4. 6d. each		93	12	0

Ten Rooms,

For seamen and their wives, with a week-				
ly allowance of 7s. each		182	0	0

Annual consumption of coals in the said				
Hospital about 57½ chaldron, at 20s. per				
chaldron, cost and cartage		57	15	0

£415 5 0

HOUSEHOLD EXPENCES, &c.

£.	s.	d.	
23	0	0	For rent dinners, proportion of quar-
			ter dinners given to merchants and
			ship-owners who pay pinnage, expences
			of meetings of the board on paying
			pensions, and transacting the general
			business relating to the charity.
296	0	0	Officers' salaries.
23	0	0	Water rents.
8	6	0	Assessed taxes.
30	0	0	Turves and carriage for all the Hos-
			pitals.
5	0	0	Shipping lists
50	0	0	Cleaning all the Hospitals, secretary
			and clerk's office expences.
30	0	0	Matron's expences.
10	0	0	Expence of occasional journies to the
			Spurn, on business relating to the lights.
480	12	6	Insurance of the house, hospitals,
			and the whole of Ferris' property.
10	0	0	Annual subscription to the Infirmary.
5	0	0	do. do. Humane Society.
5	0	0	do. do. Life-boat at the Spurn.

£830 12 6

PECUNIARY DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS TO THE TRINITY HOUSE.

1640 Lawrence Scales, master and mariner, by his last will, bequeathed all his goods and chattels to this house, after the payment of some few legacies, left to his relations and friends.

1701 Mr. William Thompson, an assistant gave £50:

8th Sept. } Mr. John Waite, an elder brother, left at
1715 } his decease, a legacy of £5. to the house.

6th Feb. } The executor of Mr. John Seaman, brought
1717 } in other £5. being a legacy left by him to the brotherhood.

1743 Mr. Ralph Peacock, a younger brother, and a merchant, gave £50.

1755 Walter Kettleby, esquire, gave to the house £100.

12th Sept. } The same year, another £100. given by
1755 } a person unknown, (was paid to the house by Mr. Purver) for which the secretary received orders to return the donor thanks in the public papers.

1757 Mrs. Jane Lindall, daughter of an elder brother of that name, gave £50.

1758 Mrs. Elizabeth Flaxton, gave £100.

1774 Mrs Hannah Lindall, gave to the house £50.

1809 William Fridlington a pensioner, by William Horncastle, his executor £50.

The several sums above mentioned were received by the Trinity House, and carried to the account of and applied with their general funds.

(The Charities will be continued in my next.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—I am inclined to believe you are mistaken in supposing our worthy Mayor ordered so many Copies of Writs to be served on the parties refusing to pay Tolls; because, in private life, he was never known to be guilty of a shabby act.

My opinion (which is very general,) is, that the Town Clerk issued them for his own emolument, and he is so intimately acquainted with Corporate secrets as to baffle instead of servant of the Corporation.

Have not our Corporation become notorious for a litigious spirit, and rarely going into court? It cannot be the desire of many of the respectable gentlemen in the Corporation to be always embroiled in law, and generally have to submit, but it is to the advantage of the Town Clerk that it should be so. I conceive I am speaking within bounds when I state that they do not suffer one-tenth part of their law-suits to go into Court, and they are almost invariably the party who give away. I understand they have agreed to reflag Union-street, (after having incurred the expense of paving it) when they found the affair was going into a Court of Justice. The Town Clerk, and Secretary to the Trinity House were the

ally lawyers in the Town, who ever said there was any other chance for them.

In conclusion I would recommend the recently elected Aldermen (who cannot yet be corrupted) to ascertain the sum the Corporation have paid for law, and what has been gained by it. I have no doubt the investigation would be attended with a beneficial result. Indeed, looking into the Toll accounts would be serviceable to them, for I am sure it will be found the Tolls chiefly go to enrich Corporate myrmidons, who obtain the situations of collectors, and that a very small part of the amount collected goes into the public purse. It is melancholy to see so many respectable men as form our Corporation sustaining a loss of character for the benefit of a parcel of Cormorants, who are preying on the property of the Burgesses. There is scarcely a servant of the Corporation from the Town Clerk to the lowest menial on the Establishment, who is not shamefully overpaid. I am, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant, A BURGESS.

MEM:—*There is but little in this defence of the Corporation. If they squander the money which they hold in trust for the Burgesses on their servants, and if they allow those servants to embroil them in law expences without a prospect of success, they are unfaithful stewards. Is profligacy of the money of others, honest? I cannot deem it so.* J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—The following instance of “taking Toll with a vengeance” was perpetrated with impunity about six or seven weeks ago. A poor woman residing at Hessle, of the name of Hewson, brought two fowls to expose for sale in Hull Market, for the purpose of obtaining a little ready money, of which she was greatly in need;—and in order to increase the small amount, she brought five eggs, which she offered for sale with the fowls. The Collector came round, and, after taking the customary Toll for the fowls, took away one of the five eggs, as a permission to sell the remaining four.

The Corporation must certainly gain great esteem by such acts being committed by their servants.

Hull, Nov. 25, 1831. Yours &c. P. J. G.

MEM:—*What is extortion, if this be not? But there is no lack of such cases—as may hereafter be shown by the variety of Bills of Indictment, which may very possibly be preferred—if certain parties do not forthwith evince a reasonably legal disposition.* J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—In a late number of your Portfolio, was a paragraph respecting the legality of selling or letting pews in churches, when some cases in point were adduced to prove the practice as unwarrantable by law, as it is repugnant to the spirit of Christianity. Now Sir, may I, a churchman but a lover of equity, be permitted, through the medium of your useful publication, to ask, on what

ground can the Minister of the Holy Trinity and other churches after having sold a pew for life for £14.—claim the sum of 9 shillings per annum for pewage, which, if the owner does not pay at the toll of the Easter bell, the Clerk boldly vociferates will ensure him the forfeiture of his pew. Your reply I surmise—nor would this meet your eye did it not originate in a sincere wish to see all unclainable demands, in Church as well as Market, abolished; and the industrious, pious labourer enter the sacred Temple of Religion, to render his homage and thanks for the benefits received at the hands of his maker, with as much unrestrained freedom as his purse-proud but similarly formed neighbour.

ORTHODOX.

Hull, 22d November, 1831.

MEM:—*Alas! that the house of God should be, so often, a den of thieves!* J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—Does not the ship Zephyr belong to one of our Aldermen? If I am not mistaken I think she does. I understand she is from Memel, loaded with timber on the owner's account. I am also informed a great deal of Memel timber will be wanted in a short time for the temporary North Bridge, which is to be erected before long. Will this immaculate Alderman offer the Zephyr's cargo to the Timber merchants, I wonder, as he did the Columbus's cargo for Garrison side Jetty, and say “if you will give me my price for the cargo, I will almost engage that you shall supply the Corporation with what timber they may want for the North Bridge?” Is this not jobbing?

These Boltons are making a pretty thing out of the Mayor and Burgesses of Hull—to wit, the Town's-husband has £400 per year salary, and about £100 more in perquisites, say £500 a year. No wonder he keeps his country and town house. Would this salary have been given to any other person, than an Alderman's son? No.

Mr. Draper the late Town's-husband had no more than £150 per year. What immaculate Aldermen we have as Stewards for the Mayor and Burgesses of Hull! Has W. W. Bolton paid Mr. Leonard yet? G. F.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—I observe our last worthy Recorder has given us another proof of his liberality by the gift of his Salary as Recorder £31. 10s. To the following, viz. Mechanic's Institute £15. 15s. Literary and Philosophical Society £15. 15s. How is it then that the present Recorder receives £250 per annum?

A BURGESS.

MEM:—*Really I cannot answer this question, otherwise than by imagining the increase to be conditional on the present recorder's abuse of me in his maiden charge to the Grand Jury of Hull—with possibly a contingent duty, hereafter to be discharged.* J. A.

TO BE DISPOSED OF, a well established and lucrative concern, situate in a very respectable neighbourhood, and great thoroughfare—and commanding the finest business of its kind in Hull and its vicinity: the investment of capital for the undertaking will be moderate.—Letters addressed (Post paid,) to A. B. C. Portfolio Office, 38. Queen-street, will be duly attended to.

Hull, Dec. 2, 1831.

A COPY OF THE CHARTER GRANTED BY KING CHARLES THE SECOND TO THE TOWN OF HULL, DATED THIRD OF DECEMBER, ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY ONE.

(Continued from page 136.)

AND FURTHERMORE, we have granted and confirmed by these presents, for us our Heirs and Successors, and do grant and confirm to the said Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid, that they and their Successors, the Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid, for ever shall have Cognizance of all manner of Pleas and Complaints of Assize, new Disseizen and death of the Ancestor of all Lands and Tenements within the said Town or Borough, and the Liberties and Precincts of the same, as well before the said Justices assigned to hold Pleas before us, as before our said Justices of Common Pleas, and Justices assigned to take Assizes, and Justices Itinerant, as before any other whatsoever the Justices and Ministers of us our Heirs and Successors, to the taking of such like Assizes arrayed, or to be arrayed before the Mayor and Sheriff of the said Town or Borough for the time being, in the Guild-Hall of our Town or Borough, to be helden and taken as the same Mayor of the same Town or Borough, and the Bailiffs for the time being, and the Burgesses or any of them have had and held, or any hath had or held before the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town and Borough aforesaid, who hath been in times past; and that such like Cognizance to aforesaid Mayor and Burgesses and their Successors in whatsoever Courts of us and our Heirs, this present Charter being seen to our aforesaid Justices, and to any of them, without any other Writ of us, or our Heirs or Successors, without delay shall be allowed; and that no Escheator, nor Sheriff of the County of York, into the Town or Borough aforesaid, or the Liberties and Precincts of the same, any manner of way shall ever, or do presume to enter any manner of way there to do or exercise the Office of them, although they do any way touch us or our Heirs.

And moreover we have granted, and for us our Heirs and Successors, to the aforesaid Mayor and Burgesses and their Successors for ever, that the Town and Hamlets of Swanland, West-Ellow, Kirk-Ellow, Tranby, Willerby, Woldfretton, Anlaby, and all the seite of the Priory of Hawtonprise in the County of York by what names soever they are taken; and as well all the Lordships, Lands, Tenements and Possessions whatsoever to the said Towns, Hamlets and Priors, as well within the said County, any manner of way belonging or appertaining, as also a certain Pasture or Close called Well-Darringham, and a certain Fountain in the same Pasture or Close called Darringham Well, a certain Dike called Old Darringham Dike, running from the said Fountain of Darringham

Well into the water of Hull, and all the Lands Tenements, and Possessions whatsoever between the said Dike of Old Darringham Dike, into the middle stream of the water of Humber of the south part, and from the said Fountain of Darringham Well and Old Darringham Dike, as the said Dike of Darringham Dike of ancient times was wont to run under a certain Bridge into a place called Sculcoates Gole, into the middle of the stream of the Water of Humber, being the ancient Liberties and Precincts of Kingston-upon-Hull aforesaid towards the East, shall be from hence forth for ever separate from the said County of York and that they shall be of and in the County of the Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull, and parce of the said County, and within the Liberties and Precincts of the said Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull, and not of the County of York, as of ancient times was wont; and that all and singular Executions of all and singular Writs, Precepts and Warrants whatsoever as well of us our Heirs and Successors, as of the Justices Officers and other Ministers of us our Heirs and Successors whatsoever, as well of the Lands and Tenements being within the said Towns of Hessle and North Ferriby and the said Towns of Swanland, West-Ellow, Kirk-Ellow, Tranby, Willerby, Wallpeton and Anlaby, and all the seite of the said Priory of Hawtonprise moreover the Lands, Tenements and Possession whatsoever to the same Towns, Hamlets and Priors within the said County of York, and manner of way belonging or appertaining as so aforesaid, and within the said Pasture, Close, Fountain, and Dike of Old Darringham Dike, and all the Lands, Tenements and Possessions whatsoever, between the said Dike and the said middle stream of the water of Humber, as of whatsoever Debts, Detentions, Covenants, Trespasses and Contracts whatsoever within the same Towns Hamlets and Premises any manner of way done or perpetrated, happening or chancing by these our Officers and Ministers, and our Heirs and Successors of the said Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull always shall be done by whom all and singular Executions of all and singular Writs, Precepts and Warrants whatsoever, as well of us our Heirs and Successors as of the Justices, Officers, and other Ministers of us our Heirs and Successors whatsoever, as well of Land and Tenements within the said Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull any manner of way have been done, perpetrated, grown, happened or chanced, and not by other Officers or Ministers of us our Heirs and Successors as heretofore it hath been accustomed.

(To be continued.)

MEMO.—A correspondent informs me that Church-rates in the parish of Sutton are levied on pig-styes—and forwards me documentary evidence in proof thereof, in the case of a man who resides in another parish. Verily this is the way to turn churches into pig-styes!

Hull Portfolio;

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES ACLAND.

"Bonis nocet quisquis pepercerit malis."—CICERO.
HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY JAMES ACLAND, SOLE PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR, NO. 38, QUEEN-STREET, HULL.

Vol. 1.—No. 19. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1831. Twopence.

THE MARKET AND TOWN TOLLS.

TO THE PEOPLE OF HULL.

MY FRIENDS,

You are aware that in consequence of the very general refusal to pay Tolls to the Corporators, that body has commenced upwards of Forty actions against the individuals so refusing. The semblance of persecution which the legal proceedings of the Corporation have once assumed, has prejudiced their cause, in the estimation of even their friends, to a very considerable extent. That must be a bad cause which can require persecution for the attainment of its object.

In order to shew the conduct of the Corporators in a respect in its true light, I subjoin a letter from a Solicitor of the Anti-Toll-Association, to the members of that body:—

TO THE ANTI-TOLL COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN.—On the 26th November, I communicated to you a letter I had written, to Messrs. Codd and Levett, in consequence of a paragraph in the Rockingham which I refer you to.

On the 28th, I received the following letter from Mr. George Codd.

To Thos. Thompson, Esq. Solicitor, Hull.

GUILD-HALL, HULL, Nov. 28th, 1831.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of the 26th inst. containing an extract from the Rockingham Newspaper respecting the Actions which have been commenced by the Corporation for Tolls has been laid before me, and I am directed to state in reply that the Mayor is not bound by what authority the Editor of the Rockingham has inserted a paragraph, no instructions to that effect having been issued by the Corporation. If you as the Solicitor employed to defend the Actions, have proposals to make for consolidating them, the same will immediately receive the prompt consideration of the Mayor and Aldermen.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

Geo. CODD, Town Clerk.

In consequence of the clause at the end of Mr. Codd's letter of the 28th Nov. wrote him, submitting the only proposition which occurred to me, as practicable for me to make in the stage of the business, as the meeting I had proposed with that object was declined.

Messrs. CODD and LEVETT, Solicitors, Hull.

HULL, Nov. 28th, 1831.

DEAR SIR,—I do not quite understand how I can make any proposition to you, for consolidating the Actions for Toll defended by me, as in the present stage, I cannot tell, for what particular Tolls each Action is brought. I shall be happy however to consolidate if possible; you are however the best judges whether so many Actions are necessary for trying the matters in dispute, yet I think that the expense of filing Declarations, Pleas &c. in all the Actions, might be avoided thus. By the new rule of Court, you will have to file a particular of your demand, with each Declaration. Now if you will, before declaration furnish me with such particulars in all the Actions that I defend, I would also furnish you with an Account of all those Actions in classes to which my defence would be similar as to the Pleas. We might then perhaps mutually agree on some plan for trying one only of the Actions of each class in which the ground of Action, and the defence may be similar. If you agree to this, I will furnish you with a list of those Defendants whom I defend.

I remain, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

T. THOMPSON.

To the above letter I receive no answer. So on the 1st. Dec. I again wrote as follows.

Messrs. CODD and LEVETT, Hull.

HULL, Dec. 1st, 1831.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to refer you to my letter of the 28th Nov. to which I am anxious to have an answer. The proposal I made, was the best one I could suggest, and if it does not suit you, I wish you would make any other, as I should be happy to meet your ideas as far as practicable.

I remain, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

T. THOMPSON.

Both my letters having been treated with silent contempt, notwithstanding I was promised if I made any proposition, it should have "prompt consideration," I should be justified in feeling indignant, and considering myself insulted, as well as my clients; but gentlemen, in conducting the important work we are engaged in, we must never allow ourselves to act from feeling, but from judgment alone. It strikes me as being of importance that we should by shewing every forwardness to consolidate on our part, place ourselves in a situation to shew the public when the proper time arrives that all the hints thrown out by members of the Corporation, of an inclination to "be as lenient as possible" &c. &c. have been but deceptive and mean in reality only to dissuade persons from aiding your fund, whilst they continue the oppressive system of wasting that fund by numerous actions on which they commenced their

proceeding, but which they have found called forth the indignation of the Public.

If you therefore can suggest any further step I can take to produce a consolidation, or direct refusal to consolidate before further expense is incurred, I shall be quite ready to forward your views, notwithstanding the silent contempt and ungentlemanly conduct of the Plaintiff's Attorney with which I have been treated.

I remain, Gentleman, Yours truly,

T. THOMPSON

I think this correspondence speaks for itself, to the great discredit of our common enemy, and in proof of the readiness of the Anti-Toll Committee and their Solicitor, to bring the question to a fair legal decision.

But the Aldermen have this week hit upon a new expedient for coaxing the Market-people into the payment of Tolls. They forwarded to many of them a written paper, to which the signature of their Town Clerk was attached, and which requested the party to appear before the Corporators, and state what their complaint was respecting the payment of Tolls. They might as well request me to appear before them, and state my complaint against the Ferry Monopolists. What drivelling-childishness! What affection of simplicity and ignorance! Can they really think themselves qualified to act as impartial judges in their own case? Do they really imagine the People to be such dolts as to consent to the hearing and decision of the question of Tolls, before and by the exactors of those Tolls? If they are so imbecile—if their legal adviser is so incompetent,—it may cease to be matter of surprise that they have degraded themselves in the public estimation as they have done. But what complaint could they expect the Market people to make before them? The Corporators demand a Toll—the People refuse to pay such Toll, because it is illegal,—those demanding it then institute upwards of forty actions for the enforcement of their claim—and, whilst these actions are pending, call upon the defendants to appear before them, and state their complaint. Do they institute suits at law by the score, without knowing why or wherefore? Why, by the very act of issuing their writs, they become the complainants—and almost immediately afterwards, they request the parties to state their complaint. It is the Corporators who complain of the non-payment of Tolls; they so complain to the Court of King's Bench,—and the Judges of which Court will have to decide, according to law, on the complaint preferred by our Corporators. Do the latter anticipate defeat? Then let them, in prudence, withdraw their complaint—and they will thereby, (and they can in no other manner) escape the disgrace and mortification of being held up to the Country, by the Judges of the Land, as *Corporate extortioners*.

I am credibly informed that the Aldermen have angrily expressed their astonishment that the People requested to complain, did not think proper to accommodate them in that matter. They need not be astonished at such circumstance,—for the People are not idiots, and moreover have advisers who can see as far beyond a manoeuvre, as Mr. Codd can see into one. The day

of successful trickery has gone by. Common sense is becoming more common every day—excepting among Aldermen, and such like folks—but which very exception most satisfactorily establishes the rule.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE ALDERMEN OF HULL:

SIRS,—Your Tory reign approaches its termination. All the world are Reformers, more or less radical, but yourselves and your Tory coadjutors of other parts of the Kingdom. The hour of your destiny is therefore at hand—and you will do well to prepare yourselves for that event.

Your King has declared to Parliament that the Municipal Police of the Kingdom must be made more efficient. God knows that Kingston-upon-Hull is most miserably inefficient—because contemptible. You are at the head of the Municipal Police of this Town, as its magistracy, and, by your conduct, for a long series of years, have degraded the administration of the laws in the estimation of the Community. You are no longer held in respect by any class of Society. You have become a laughing stock and a bye-word among the People. The finger of scorn points at you as an object of ridicule; and your ignorant pretensions to mental, personal, and moral superiority, make you but the more notorious for the absence of those virtues and of that propriety which ought to constitute the qualifications for the honorable offices you so unworthily fill.

The necessity of an alteration in the Municipal Government of this Town is therefore unquestionable. Any alteration must be for the better, for none could be for the worse; but an alteration, to be efficient, must be extensive in its scale and radical in its nature. To this indeed I have strong hopes we shall speedily attain. The musty old Charters, bought of needy kings as a means of monopoly, and as instruments of extortion and oppression—must be withdrawn. Other charters, more applicable to the wants of Society, more conservative of the rights of the People, and more consistent with the enlightened spirit of the age, must be granted. The ignorant magistrate must be turned out of office—the unprincipled gourmand must be deprived of all control over the funds of the Burgesse—the Aldermanic timber merchant must sell his wood to others than contractors to the Corporation—insolvents and dishonest debtors should be driven from the high places of trust and honor—lawyers who advise persecutions for their own profit must be prevented from misleading the fools who might chance to be worshipful—barbers must be compelled to resign the emblems of office for the lather-brush and razor-strop—the Public Charities must be administered by men who will quarter their coachmen on the funds of humanity—and the whole squad of the staff (from the Governors, Corporate black-holes, to the dish-lickers at Corporate grubbing-matches) must be taught to obey the laws, to defy, and respect the rights and privileges they but so frequently violate.

TRINITY-HOUSE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—I understand the Trustees of the Trinity House have this week commenced a Reformation; but it is like all the rest of their proceedings, contrary to reason and common-sense.

They are augmenting the pay of the present inmates of the Alms-houses, giving every single person an increase of 2s. per week, and married people an increase of 3s. per week, whilst to their out-pensioners (who have to pay rent and to find their own coals) they are only advancing 2s. per quarter. Sir, if this was their own private property and not Trust-money, I should say they had a right to do what they would with their own; but as it is Trust-money, I cannot help thinking that they ought to deal out the bounty of others with a more equal hand. Are not the out-pensioners men and women of the same feelings, as those who are inmates of the Alms-Houses? and have they not equal claim to partake of the bounty of which the Trinity-House Corporation are but stewards? The inmates have a comfortable room, coals and turves, and five shillings per week, whilst the out-pensioner and his wife, who have to pay their own rent, and find their own fuel, receive no more than 19s. per quarter, which is something less than eighteen-pence a week! There is a certain single person in Ferris's Hospital, on the Whitefriars-gate Walls, who is in the yearly receipt of forty pounds and upwards from his own private property in the neighbourhood of Selby. This individual enjoyed under the Trinity-House Corporators, a comfortable room, with coals and turves, and five shillings per week, and which allowance they have now augmented to 7s per week. There is an out pensioner, an old worn-out seaman, 70 years of age, with a wife but five years younger, without other means of obtaining a livelihood than carrying a few bags of coals. He has to pay his own rent, and to find his own coals, and they have augmented his quarterly allowance from 17s. to 19s. per quarter, being an increase of a paltry two-pence weekly. If this be any thing like an equal distribution of public charity, I do not know what sort of feelings these Corporators are possessed of, but I am quite certain they are not the feelings of humanity.

Yours, Respectfully,
W. F.

MEM:—My correspondent gives me his name, and I have other reasons for believing his statement to be correct. If it be, it speaks volumes. And this precious Corporation is rich enough, be it remembered, to lend the Dock Company twenty-five thousand pounds, and to speculate in Dock shares to about half that amount! Yet these are Charity Trustees! They are rich enough, and sufficiently lax in their principles, to gorge and guzzle and pleasure themselves, at the expence of the funds which ought to be sacredly appropriated to the benevolent purposes of this admirably conceived, but infamously administered institution!

J. A.

Such a Charter as the People may reasonably expect at the hands of our popular Sovereign would elevate the port, commerce and trade of this Town, to that natural level, below which it has so long been depressed by its Corporate despot.

Such a Charter would most probably deem an inhabitant householder admissible to the advantages of Borough freedom on terms somewhat less than ruinous. Such a Charter would most probably confer on the Burgeses the right of real representation in the Common Council of its Municipal Government, rendering the members of that body accountable to their constituents by making their election triennial, whilst that of its Aldermen might advantageously be made septennial.

The Town should be divided into a certain number of Wards, each of which should be more immediately under the Government of a resident Alderman—and that advantage might be secured to the people by making proof of non-residence a forfeiture of office.

The Municipal purse should be under the control of the Court of Common Council—that the People might not be taxed by others than their real representatives, and that the Public monies might not be applied to the private purposes or personal gratification of the Aldermen.

Such, Worshipful Sirs, are my views on this important subject. I offer them to your consideration, as probably the views of the Sovereign you so indifferently serve, and most assuredly as those of a vast majority of the people whom you misgovern—to whose interests you oppose yourselves, and whose rights you respect not.

You may assure yourselves of the honor of a second epistle in my next publication.

Your despised Mentor, JAMES ACLAND.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A FRIEND UNKNOWN,"—who encloses me a shilling as a bribe for the anticipated insertion of his vulgar attack on a female member of a respectable family may receive back his shilling on establishing a claim to it by the verification of the handwriting.

"JUSTICIA" is thanked, but I heed not the trashy abuse of the Packet. I have no doubt the virulence of the writer operates as a safety valve for the spleen produced by so great a reduction in his advertisements and circulation. J. A.

TO GEORGE CODD, CORPORATE TOWN-CLERK.

SIR,—Permit me to condole with you on your recent misfortune in being turned out of the office of Solicitor to the Corporation of the Poor—the only reformed Corporation in the Town. It must have been a cruel cut for you indeed! Why, they say it was worth some hundreds yearly to you—and surely it is a heavy loss to you—almost as heavy as that of the Ferry Monopoly to your Corporate Masters. Is it possible that there were but two of thirty-seven of the Guardians who voted for your continuance in the office? Is it true that these two were, one the brother-in-law, and the other the cousin of your professional partner? What an ungrateful set were the odd thirty-five!

What consolation can I offer you? Alas! I know of none, unless it may be found in the reasonable expectation that your dear friends and capital customers the Hull Aldermen may be speedily shown the same road to retirement, and the *otium sine dignitate*—which, may God, of his infinite mercy, grant! is the earnest prayer of

SIR, your's in condolence,
JAMES ACLAND.

THE TOWN AND COUNTY OF THE TOWN OF KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.

FERRIS'S CHARITY FOR APPRENTICES.

(Continued from page 144.)

Thomas Ferris, Alderman of Hull, by will, dated 22d January 1630, devised to the Mayor and Burgesses of Kingston-upon-Hull, and their successors, all his messuages, lands, and hereditaments, at North Ferriby, in the County of the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull, and fields or places thereabouts, then let at the yearly rent of £28. 13. 4. to the intent that the said Mayor and Burgesses, and their successors should bestow, and employ, the yearly rents and profits thereof, for and towards putting poor fatherless children of the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull for the time being, apprentice to such trades, mysteries, or occupations, as they should be thought most fitting and apt to be put unto, the said poor children to be so put apprentice, at the discretion of the Mayor and Aldermen of the said Town, or most part of them for the time being.

The property at North Ferriby devised by the will consists of the following particulars, and is let to tenants from year to year as follows :

A house and 87a. 2r. 14p. of open field land. let to Richard Wilson	£.	s.	d.
	105	0	0
A house, Mark Andrew, tenant	15	0	0
A tenement let to John Pinchbeck	6	6	0
do. Francis West	6	6	0
do. Ann Harrison	4	4	0

There is also the sum of £328 three per cent stock, purchased out of unapplied balances, producing a yearly dividend of

9 16 8

Total yearly income £146 12 8

The revenues after deducting the expence of occasional repairs, are applied in apprenticing fatherless children ; the premiums given with boys bound for seven years being £5. 5. smaller sums for boys bound for shorter terms, and £3. 3. or less with girls.

The accounts are audited once a year, by the finance committee of the Corporation of Hull : balance in hand at last audit £4. 4.

CHARITIES OF ALDERMAN FERRIS, AND THOMAS BURY FOR EXHIBITIONS.

Thomas Ferris, the testator above named, by his said will, also devised to the Mayor and Burgesses, and their successors, his messuages, with the appurtenances, in the High-street of Hull, to the end that they should pay out of the same yearly, to the poor people of that Town, at Christmas time £3. 6. 8. for ever, and 20s. yearly, for ever, to the poor of Howden, at the same time ; and give and pay the rest of the rents and revenues of the said messuages, with the appurtenances (charges of repairs deducted) for and towards the yearly maintenance of a poor scholar of the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull, at the Uni-

versity of Cambridge or Oxford, from time to time for ever ; or in default of such poor scholar, or when there should be none such, then for such poor scholar of the Town next adjoining, at the discretion of the Mayor and Aldermen of Hull for the time being, or the most part of them.

Thomas Bury, of Hull, Scrivener, by will, dated 8th June, 1627, gave his estate in Scale-Lane, in Hull, after the determination of two lives, to the Mayor and Burgesses of Hull ; the rents of the same (repairs excepted) to be bestowed for a scholarship upon some poor scholar, apt to learn, born within the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull, or the Town of Beverley in the County of York, whose friends should not be able to maintain them at school ; and that when any such poor child, should be fit for Cambridge, then that the said Mayor and Burgesses should bestow the rent of the said tenement upon such poor scholar of Hull, or Beverley, as they in their discretion should think fit, for his better exhibition and maintenance in some of the colleges or halls in the University of Cambridge ; and that his gift should remain, and stand good from one poor scholar to another for ever, without fraud and guile.

These charities have for a long time been consolidated and administered together as one.

PROPERTY AND INCOME.

The house, in High-Street, in Hull, let to George Malcolm, as yearly tenant at the full value, being

£. s. d.

35 0 0

The house in Scale-Lane held by Robert Peck, under a building lease, granted by the Mayor and Aldermen to John Brooks for 50 years, from the 5th December, 1788.

12 0 0

(This house was erected by the lessee on site of a former messuage, pursuant to the covenants of the lease. The property if out of lease would be worth £40. per annum.)

£100. navy five per cent annuities, purchased in January 1820, in the names of William Hall, and Christopher Bolton, two of the Aldermen, out of a balance in hand

5 0 0

Total yearly income £52 0 0

Pursuant to the direction of Ferris's will, the annual sum of £3. 6. 8. is yearly distributed among the poor persons of Hull, under the authority of the Mayor for the time being, and £1. per annum is paid for distribution among the poor of Howden to the churchwardens of that place.

An annual sum (at present £40.) is paid as an exhibition to a poor scholar of the Town of Hull, at the University of Cambridge, the exhibition being continued to each scholar in succession for three years.

The exhibitioners are chosen by the Mayor and Aldermen of Hull. There are sometimes three or four candidates. At the last election there was one.

The annual exhibitions since 1798, have been annually £40. per annum, in some few instances £50. and in one £70.---larger sums being given when the surplus funds remaining in hand are considerably accumulated.

The accounts are yearly audited by the finance committee of the Corporation, and at the last audit the balance in hand was £58.

FERRIS'S BEQUEST OF £200.

The above named Alderman Ferris, by his said will also gave to the Mayor and Burgesses of the town of Kingston-upon Hull, and their successors £200. for a stock for setting the poor of the Charity-Hall in that town on work, hoping that the Mayor and Aldermen, would take some good course to provide a man for the said Charity-Hall, who would undertake to teach the poor children, and keep the poor on work, and maintain them for their labour, and keep the stock upstanding.

We can obtain no account of the receipt or application of this legacy. The Mayor and Burgesses are possessed of no property, the acquisition of which can be traced to that source, and there appear to be no entries in their account books respecting either the principal sum, or interest of the legacy.

(To be continued.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,--If in your valuable and much esteemed production there is a space for the insertion of one of the most barfaced acts of injustice in the Magistracy of Hull, I should esteem it a favor.

As a Shoemaker I have a Stall in the main Street (called Market Place) on Saturdays, that since the extorted illegality of tolls is about to come to an issue, (when the Corporators will undoubtedly awake from the illusion they have so long asked in.) I have discontinued paying, and have furnished leas &c. to make a stall of my own; now Sir, my circumstances are very limited; I even had no room in my house to deposit the materials, but took them to a brother of mine in Calhouse-lane, put them in his garret, and went on Wednesday the 14th inst. to assist in preparing the articles merely to save expense; same evening I was taking two boards home about 11 o'clock, when in passing where the old gaol stood was stoppt by one Johnson of Carr-lane, and Robinson of the Pottery, both perfidious watchmen; they interrogated me respecting the two deals, and said they had been stolen. I in vain stated my having purchased them, where and when, as also, I lived in Burton-street, only a few yards from the place where we men stood, where they could get satisfactory information; but alas! in vain did I thus expostulate with those officious backs-in-office, (Johnson and Robinson) who in conjunction forced me to a common prison; my Host an ill constructed piece of clay, but yet worse disposed, (LEE,) had the audacity to say "you'll have a better tale than that to give to-morrow, they look like stall boards, "Oh, you look like one of those radical chaps--and Mr. Acland will liberate you to-morrow."--I was not allowed to reply, but instantly hurried off and locked up. Thus was I treated in a loathsome prison, absent from my family, in a state of sickness which I had been laboring under the three preceding weeks, without even committing, or in any shape intending to commit a crime, only intending to assist in abolishing the continuance of a long usurpation

of the despotic Corporators of Hull---The following day (Thursday,) I was arranged at the Mansion House, when the Mayor after a hearing said there were two witnesses against one, (meaning the two night-robbers) whose imbecility and want of understanding alarmed me, he being at the Head of the Magistracy, (like an Almanack) for a year, as this well known, those two perfidious wretches were only one consolidated witness, therefore twas equal--the difference only in principle, for they actually declared the greatest untruths they could invent, when the Mayor at last said he would dismiss the case. Now Mr. Editor, I consider this a hard case, in a state of sickness, to be falsely imprisoned, and the only reparation made me was, to pay a shilling, for being indulged one night in a prison, as also, these wretched Dogs requested Mr. Mayor to order their payment for the base crime they had committed---but he refused. Thus was treated your much injured,

RICHARD STAVES.

MEM:--The constables are liable to an action for false imprisonment. Lee's impudence and heartlessness is of a piece with his general conduct. The Mayor should have vindicated the Corporation from the suspicion of conniving at the illegal acts of their menials, by severely reprimanding, if not by suspending or discharging them. Still I am bound to observe that his worship did not order the scamps to be rewarded for their unjustifiable conduct. There are Hull Aldermen who might and would have done so.

J. A.

MEM:--The following Certificate made under the Hand & Seal of a former Mayor of Hull has been forwarded me for publication, and may be of some use to the Burgesses, who, I am informed are not generally aware that they can claim a similar certificate whenever they think necessary.

J. A.

THESE are to Certify to all whom it may Concern, that in and by the Charter of Edward the first, late King of ENGLAND, bearing date under the Great Seal the first day of April, in the Seven and Twentieth year of his Reign, which was in the year of our Lord God, one thousand two hundred and ninety-nine--it is (amongst other things) granted to the Burgesses or Freemen thereof, THAT they for ever be quit and free throughout the whole Kingdom of ENGLAND and all the dominions thereto belonging, of and from payment of TOLL, PORTAGE, PASSAGE, PAVEAGE, MUIAGE, and all other customs, for or in respect of their own proper Goods, Things and Merchandise. AND that in and by the Charter of Edward the Third late King of ENGLAND, dated under the Great Seal the fifteenth day of July in the Eighth year of his Reign, which was in the year of our Lord God, one thousand three hundred & thirty-four. IT is (amongst other things) granted to the said Burgesses or Freemen, and their Successors, Burgesses or Freemen, of the said Town or Borough, THAT they for ever be quit and free of and from all ANCHORAGE, STRANDAGE, SEDAGE, and LASTAGE, for or in respect of their own proper Goods, Things and Merchandise throughout the said Kingdom, and the Dominions thereof, THAT the said several Charters have been, and are, and stand ratified and confirmed by divers of his Present Majesty's Royal Progenitors, Kings and Queens of this Realm, and now are and continue in full force, AND further these Presents are to Certify that GEORGE THOMPSON of the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull, Butcher, is a Freeman or Burgess of the same Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull, duly admitted and sworn, and so stands registered, enrolled and entered (amongst others) in a book appointed for that purpose, AND THEREFORE is justly intitled to and of right ought to have and enjoy all the Benefits, Privileges, Immunities and Exemptions granted as aforesaid and belonging to him as a Burgess or Freeman of this Town. GIVEN at the Guild-Hall in the said Town of Kingston-upon-Hull, under my Hand and Seal of office, this fifth day of April, in the Twenty-third Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God of Great, Britain, France and Ireland King, defender of the Faith, and so forth, and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three.

Signed, JOHN BOOTH, MAYOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

DEAR SIR,—Has you are in the habit of pleading the cause of the afflicted, and defending those who are oppressed: I would beg leave for to submit my case to your consideration. I have been a travelling preacher nearly ten years amongst a body of Christians, who are pleased to Designate themselves Primitiv Methodist; at our Quarterly Meeting held last Friday Dec. 2. 1831. in Mill-Street Chapel Hull, at this meeting I was compelled by my unfeeling brethren to retire from the ministry. I have a wife and two small children: they have not given me one penny to begin busines, or to fix me in the world with, although it is now near the depth of winter. My Brethren (if they are worthy of the name) brought no charge against me for immorality; (much to the praise of Gods grace) and there is no doubt but they would, if malis could have found any occasion of sin in me, their pretence was, that Hull Circuit had more Preachers than it could maintain: to this I made the following reply, namely, that Hull Circuit, in 1826, was in a sinking state, it could not pay its way and was £70. in debt, their conduct on that occasion was praise worthy, the following is an extract from our printed Minuets of 1826. "We will take what the Lord sends and will be content with it: During the ensuing quarter the Preachers and people united with heart and hand; and great sucksess was the result, nearly seventeen hundred members were added the Preachers salaries were paid and the Circuit debt considerably lowered." But now the Preachers of Hull Circuit will not trust to providence, as they did in 1826, they have now got to much pride to confes their poverty: they want to carry their heads high in the world! Mr. F. of, or near Mill-Street must have his name engraved on brass; and dash about Hull streets with a fine fashionable cloak, lined with scarlet like the first Gentlemen of the Town; are these the Primitive methodists? who commenced at the very recent date of 1807, they are! But now much degenerated! if they had not pretended to so much humility the Public would not have thought so much about their arrogance and pride! no sect as had more to say against the pride of other Churchis, than the P. M. But now alas themselves are splitting upon the same rock: of worldly pomp and greatness! were so many Churchis have been ruined.

I have told my Brethren, that if they will neither find me a Station, nor help me in no shape. that their unchristian Conduct would provoke me to expose them from the Press, they said they hoped I would not do that, for it would only make confusion. Sir I have thought that if you insert your remarks on my case, and then if the Hull Committee which meet every Thursday, will do nothing: I will then draw up the whole of my case, and expose them to the world. I intend to expose the Editor of the Magazine, in what I consider to be rong, to make some remarks upon the Person who holds

the Preachers Fundmoney, and also to notice several other impropriates which if brought to light, will give the Primitive Ship such a Broad side between wind and water, that many a butts-end will be nocked in, and much damig sustaind.

Sir, I do not desire you to print all what I have written, I have mearly written it to give you an Idea of my case: after all, I submit to your superior judgment, wether you print the whole or part of it. If you will not print or state my case without seeing myself, be so kind as send me a note; but you may insert it with all safety, for it is a fact which I can easily prove, to my sad experience, your humble correspondant

J. SLEIGHTHOLME.

P. S. I should like to see it in your Portfolio on Saturday, and then the P. M. will see what is likely to follow. if they continu to oppose me, you need not be sparing in your animidvirtions. Because when the heads of Houses, do rong, they always requier a good drubbing before they can be brought to repentance; and therefore, if this hint to the wise, is not subschant, they shall have one, such as they never have had since the connexion was formed.

Address, J. Sleightholme, Primitive Preacher, Patterington in holdenes. The Post for Patterington goes from Mrs. Wings, near the North Bridge.

MEM:—*I offer no observation on this matter. The letter speaks for itself. But why did the writer leave an honest calling for so precarious a means of living? Perhaps he will say he was called by God's Grace! Then let him submit without repining to this his recal, and let him return to the shop-board or the lapstone with humility and industry. He may earn an honest livelihood.*

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

Hull, Dec. 5th, 1831.

SIR,—The conduct of the Mayor and Aldermen of Hull, has excited much dissatisfaction in the minds of the Inhabitants of all classes. The Corporation by their babitnal contempt, not only of Justice, but of law, has forfeited the esteem of the town, and it will never be recovered as long as the present Corporators exist. That they do not possess the confidence of the respectable Inhabitants, is evident from the fact that scarcely any of them volunteered their services as Specials, and that the Mayor and Aldermen found it necessary to issue precepts to compel them to serve, though they declared their determination not to assist in extorting the Tolls, or in seizing Mr. Acland, or his packet, Public Opinion.

What then is the remedy for this state of things? Is the governing of Hull to be continued in a May

and Aldermen, who like the *Bristol* Corporators, have lost the confidence of all classes of the Inhabitants, and whose contempt of the law, has gone far towards convincing the *People*, that the law is made for no other purpose than to enable the Mayor and Aldermen to oppress them? We say nothing of the want of common courtesy on the part of some of the Aldermen, which is a general complaint among the *People*, for the common observation is, that you need not expect either justice or law from the Aldermen, unless you are one of the would-be Aristocrats, and truth compels me to say that the law is no protection, when it is opposed to the will or whim of the Aldermen.

Mr. Jackson's case as stated in No. 10 of the Portfolio, is an instance of the habitual contempt with which the Aldermen treat the law, and of the sort of protection which the law affords to property in Hull, when the Aldermen (in the shape of tax-commissioners) are determined to seize it; and yet the *patriotic* Rockingham talks of confidential intercourse with these Aldermen! What confidence can be placed in men, who have shewn themselves capable of such tyranny and oppression, and that too under the pretended forms of law and government?

As to Messrs. Hall and Bolton pretending they were misled by John Walker, the tax-man—fudge! they ought not to be led at all, either right or wrong, by John Walker, the tax-man; the law is the walker they are sworn to follow, and not John Walker, the tax-man. The Boltons say that there will be no law in Hull soon. These men should rather say that the law is likely to have its due weight, thanks to Public Opinion, and that it has had no weight for a long time, when it suited them to thrust it aside.

If these Aldermen can seize the property of one individual without the sanction of the law, why not seize the property of one hundred, or of one thousand, or of all the individuals who reside within the limits of the Town and County of Hull?

I am, Sir, Your's very truly,
A MARKET-PLACE SHOPKEEPER.

MEM:—If vengeance be ever justice, Mr. Jackson may yet hope for that result. His oppressors are fast sinking from the height of usurpation, to the bottom of the abyss of contempt. Poor things! Their day has passed by; their sun is now sinking beneath the horizon of "Public Opinion," and all that is left them is the bitter recollection of its abused refugeance. Far better is it to be born a beggar, than, with every advantage of property and station, to be degraded to the level of the wretchedness we have despised. Let Mr. Jackson rejoice in the uniform consistency, independance and propriety of an extended life—and let him smile with disdain on the prostrated beings, who once were respected by reason of their power, and feared as a consequence of their impudence and their lawlessness.

(Continued on p. 156)

TO BE DISPOSED OF,

A well established and lucrative Concern, situate in a very respectable neighbourhood and great thoroughfare—and commanding the finest business of its kind in Hull and its vicinity. The investment of Capital for the undertaking will be moderate.

Letters with real name and address, directed (post paid) to A. B. C. Portfolio Office, 38, Queen-Street, Hull, will be duly attended to.
Hull, 10th Dec. 1831.

A COPY OF THE CHARTER GRANTED BY KING CHARLES THE SECOND TO THE TOWN OF HULL, DATED THIRD OF DECEMBER, ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY ONE.

(Continued from page 148.)

AND FURTHERMORE, we of our greater grace and certain knowledge and mere motion, desiring to provide for the safety, defence and government of Orphans and Infants, who hereafter in the Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull be, and shall happen to be; and that the Goods and Chattels of the same hereafter for ever from time to time during the minority of these Orphans and Infants, well and faithfully may be kept and preserved to the best use, commodity and profit of these same Orphans during the minority of them. And for the greater commodity and profit of these Orphans we will, and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant to the aforesaid Mayor and Aldermen of the Town or Borough for the time being, and their Successors, may have and shall have hereafter for ever the custody and government of all and singular the Orphans of whatsoever Burgess within the Town and Borough aforesaid, and the Liberties of the same, and that they may have and shall have authority, and ability and power of receiving, levying and collecting, seizing and keeping, and causing to be kept in the Common Treasury of the Town or Borough aforesaid for the time being, all Goods, Chattels, Debts and Bequests whatsoever, for the Chamberlain of the Town or Borough aforesaid for the time being, within the Town or Borough aforesaid; the Suburbs and Precincts happening, growing, coming or being of whatsoever Orphans of any Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid hereafter happening to die; and all the same Goods and Chattels, Debts and Bequests to put out to use, and appoint and employ to the better help, use, commodity, and profit of the same Orphans; and to that which of the same Goods and Chattels, Debts and Requests, together with the interest and profit thereof to the same Orphans, they shall pay and deliver, or they shall cause to be paid or delivered at such like age in same like manner and form in all things as in our city of London now before this in this part is usual and accustomed. And that they shall have all

Actions and Remedies for the subtracting and taking away of any Orphans within the Town or Borough aforesaid, happening to come, and for the recovery of the Goods and Chattels, Debts and Bequests of them the same, and all and the like manner of Officers for the better government and preservation of those Orphans, and the Goods and Chattels, Debts and Bequests of them which, and like as the aforesaid City of London before this it hath been usual, or ought to have been; and that all and singular other things whatsoever touching the like Orphans, and the Goods and Chattels, Debts and Legacies of them they shall execute and do which in the aforesaid City of London to be executed, done and acted before this hath been usual, and not otherwise in any other manner; all which inviolably to be observed we will and command by these presents. FURTHERMORE, we have granted for us our Heirs and Successors by these Presents, for the Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid, and to their Successors, that the Mayor, Recorder, Deputy Recorder, in the absence of the Recorder, the Aldermen of the Town or Borough aforesaid, and every of them jointly and severally for the time being, during the time which they in their Office or Offices aforesaid respectively shall happen to be, shall be our Justices of our Heirs and Successors to keep the peace in the same Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull aforesaid, the Liberties and Precincts of the same, and them and every of them jointly and severally are Justices of the Peace, of us our Heirs and Successors in the Town or Borough aforesaid, and in the County of the said Borough, the Suburbs, Liberties and Precincts of the same, and them, and every of them; and moreover to the Statutes and Ordinances at Winchester, Northampton and Westminster, for the keeping of the same Peace; and moreover to the Ordinances there and at Cambridge, of Hunters, Artificers, Workmen, Servants, Ostlers, Beggars and Vagabonds, and of other men begging, and likewise to the Statutes and Ordinances of Westminster, in the Reign of King Edward 4th, late King of England, the first and second for the liberty of Seals not to be given to the society and liberty of Clothiers, nor any manner of ways those liberties to be used. And also we do make, create and constitute, for us our Heirs and Successors by these Presents, them the said Mayor, Recorder, Deputy Recorder, in the absence of the Recorder and Aldermen of the Town or Borough aforesaid, and every of them for the time being, during the time that they in their Offices aforesaid respectively shall happen to be as Justices, and of our Heirs and Successors, to all their Ordinances and Statutes for the good of the peace of us our Heirs and Successors, and the quiet ruling and government of our People, our Heirs and Successors set forth in all and singular their Articles in the Town or Borough aforesaid, the Suburbs, Liberties and Precincts of the same, and to all the Statutes and Ordinances, Provisions and Acts of Parliament at any time or times whatsoever heretofore

set forth, made and procured, or hereafter to be set forth, by which, or that any power, strength or authority shall be given, granted, appointed or limited to any one, or to any one of our Justices, of our Heirs and Successors of the Peace of any County of our Kingdom of England, and to chasten and punish all those whom against the Form, Ordinance or Statutes aforesaid shall be to be done. And that they the Mayor, Recorder, Deputy Recorder, in the absence of the Recorder and Aldermen for the time being, or any two of them, whereof the Mayor or Recorder for the time being we will shall be one, shall have power and authority to enquire, hear and determine, by the Oath of honest and lawful men of the Town or Borough aforesaid, and County of the same Town or Borough, the Suburbs and Precincts of the same, by whom the truth of the matter better may be known to enquire of all, and all manner of Felonies, Trespasses, Forestallings, Regrattings and Extortions in the Town or Borough aforesaid, and in the County of the same Town or Borough, and the Suburbs and Liberties of the same, by whomsoever, or in what manner soever done and committed, and which from time to time thence shall happen, there to be done or attempted. And also of all them in Conventicles against the peace of us our Heirs or Successors, and to the disturbance of the People of us our Heirs and Successors, or with armed force shall go or ride, or shall presume to go or ride; and also of all those who against the form of any of the aforesaid Statutes, Ordinances, Acts of Parliament, and Provisions, and against the peace of us our Heirs and Successors, hath omitted, attempted, committed or offended; and also all Indictments whatsoever before the said Mayor, Recorder, Deputy Recorder, in the absence of Recorder and Aldermen, or two of them for the time being, of whom the Mayor or Recorder for the time being, of the Town or Borough aforesaid for the time being, we will to be one; of any, or whatsoever the Premises hereafter to take, inspect and to proceed thereupon, and process against all them which before the said Mayor, Recorder, Deputy Recorder, in the absence of the Recorder and Aldermen, or two of them, whereof the said Mayor and Recorder for the time being we will to be indicted it shall happen until they be taken, yielded, or outlawed, to make or constitute; and all and singular the aforesaid Felonies, Trespassings, Misdoings, and other Neglects, Offences, and Contempts aforesaid, to hear and determine, and to make Execution thereupon according to the Laws, Statutes, and Customs of our Kingdom of England, and all and singular such other Things to do and execute, which before the Keepers and Justices of the Peace, or before the Justices to the hearing and determining any Felonies, Trespasses, and other Misdoings, in any County of our Realm of England, by the Laws and Statutes of the same ought, and might be enquired of, heard and determined.

(To be continued.)

THE Hull Portfolio;

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES ACLAND.

“*Bonis nocet quisquis pepercerit malis.*”—CICERO.
HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY JAMES ACLAND, SOLE PROPRIETOR AND
EDITOR, NO. 38, QUEEN-STREET, HULL.

Vol. I.—No. 20.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1831.

Twopence.

NOTICE.

I am obliged to “A Friend” for his communication. In the full confidence that every foe to corruption, and well-wisher to the real prosperity of the town, will approve of the part I have taken in the matter to which he alludes, the writer may be assured I shall not finish from my duty.

J. A.

THE DULL PACKET AND HUMBUG MERCURY

of last week, is sore—very sore, about something, or nothing, and has made as strange an exhibition of writhings and contortions thereupon as it has ever been my good fortune to have witnessed. He calls me a “*Desperado!*”—my efforts to prevent the continued perpetration of robbery “*machinations!*”—my remonstrances with fools and my exposure of rogues “*maniac ravings!*” He is welcome to spit his venom as he will for I have no occasion to fear either it or him. *Him? Who is he?* A nameless thing!—who dare not attest even his belief in the truth of what he scribbles by signing his name to the contemptible productions of his conglomerated brain—one of those anonymous destroyers of character who like the ambushed assassin deals out destruction and death to others, in perfect security to himself. Such is precisely the difference between the soldier and the murderer; the one bares his bosom to his enemy—the other springs from behind a covert on his victim and stabs him in the dark! Oh! it is mighty brave—vastly chivalric—in this newspaper bully to call hard names from behind the high wall of Editorial concealment! Yet he is most likely fool enough to believe himself a courageous champion of Corporate corruption, and to adduce in proof of his manhood the Billings-gate attack of his unknown self on a writer who rejects the advantages of anonymous penmanship, as unnecessary, and unworthy the cause of truth and the advocacy of justice.

I again ask, “Who is my scurrilous and cowardly accuser?” When he shall dare to avow himself, I may retract the latter, however I may persist in the former, of those epithets. Meanwhile I shall observe on the matter he has put forth concerning me.

“In this precious publication, he denounces the members of our corporation in terms that, if his words are believed, are enough to make it a perilous office for any individual of that body to walk the public streets, for fear of some sudden ebullition of popular vengeance.”

And does this nameless scribbler question the belief of the Hull public in my accusations against the Hull Corporators? Does he not know that that Public support me to an extent unprecedented in this Town, because they know me to be the organ of truth in their behalf? Do not the members of the Corporation walk the public streets, perilous office as the Editor of the *Humbug Mercury* affects to believe it, unnoticed but as objects for the finger of scorn, and uninterrupted, save by the contemptuous smiles of the men, the half-muttered curses of women, or the titter of children?

“The offence of publishing a libel, we are told is punishable by indictment, because its tendency is to provoke a breach of the public peace—and words more calculated to provoke such a breach, we think, never issued from the pen of the most factious or the most malevolent of writers.”

It is very currently reported that George Codd the Town Clerk and legal adviser of the Corporators—that same George Codd who was last week deprived of his office of solicitor to the Corporation of the Poor—they say this man is one of the factious and malevolent writers for the “*Dull Packet and Humbug Mercury.*” If so, here we have his legal opinion on the propriety of the Corporators giving him a lucrative job in the prosecution of myself. A most lucrative job it would be—for I will undertake it should be a *long* job—and Geordie Codd well knows that the longer the job the more numerous are the opportunities of fleecing the client—and, therefore, the more lucrative, *if that client have wool on his back.* But let us hear the lawyer a little further:—

“If the corporation add to their other imputed vices, that of being excessively fond of law, as this infuriate scribbler asserts, it is hardly probable they will pass over this glaring temptation to appeal to the law, in the case of Mr. Acland and his *Portfolio.*”

Reader, if you never rode a dull heavy nag over a ten inch puddle, here you may take a lesson from the learned Town Clerk of the Corporation of Kingston-upon-Hull, how to enter upon such exploits with th

greatest probability of its eventful accomplishment. "Give him the spur," says the eminent practitioner—"give him the spur, as I do my Corporate trotter, and if he leap not the puddle, he will at least perceive that there is a puddle which I would have him to leap." This is the first step; now mark the second:—

"There is not a man among them, who has not as palpable a case for prosecution against him, as if he had met him and knocked him down in the street, in the presence of 500 witnesses."

Here we come to the palpable—the obscurely palpable, or, as a great poet has it, the palpable obscure. Now we have the "Knock him down" lesson. "Elevate your whip over the off blinker of your wall-eyed Rosinante and let it fall upon the sensitive raw of his wrong wither". There may be 500 witnesses of your expertness—but the more witnesses the greater number to admire your ingenuity, or to laugh at your want of spirit.

"Putting the assumed demerits of the corporation aside altogether, we will ask, is it to be borne that an adventurer should come here and vent such villainous calumnies against individuals who have lived in repute so many years, and whose enemies till the present period never ventured to assail their personal character?"

Or in other words—"putting the sluggishness of the hack aside altogether, is it to be borne that an adventurer should mount him, and spur and whip the poor animal whose roughest riders till the present period never ventured to tickle his ribs, to ruffle his hair, or to whale his sleeky hide?"—Monopoly forbid! Forbid it Codd!

"But we live in strange times, and heaven grant they are not but the forerunner of much worse—worse they most surely will be, if this ruffian be encouraged much longer to run his iniquitous career."

True Mister lawyer—most true. Bating the "ruffian," it is a most admirable specimen of your foresight—for, if the public encourage me much longer to run my career (which I am content the Corporate Town-Clerk should call "iniquitous") the times will assuredly be much worse to those who depend on the gullibility of the people for their dinners, and upon the plunder of the public, for their means of drunkenness after dinner. Oh! reader, these are strange times—but those are more strange to which these will lead us. Yesterday your Aldermen stuffed themselves to repletion, and their creatures drained off the remainders of decanted dozens, whilst those who "paid the piper" dared not question the propriety of the pipe-ing! To-day their bacchanalian orgies are disturbed by the grumblings of deceived Burgesses, and the cries of hungry children. To-morrow the Alderman must feed himself at his own expence—or quarter himself on his richer relations—or work for his livelihood—or beg for broken victuals—or bring his belly to the hospital—or burst with vexation—or die from starvation. These are indeed strange times Geordie Codd—but there may be stranger, yet in store for Corporate guzzlers and Corporate misadvisers!

So much for the Coddish portion of last week's lying Packet. I come now to the lucubrations of the nameless Editor. Even Mr. Lee prefixes his name to the contents of his weekly publication—and such conduct argues at least in favor of the honest belief of an Editor, however much his credulity may impeach the strength and correctness of his judgment. But the great *wz* of the *Humbug Mercury* is a *wee-wee* thing indeed, who writes what he is ashamed to own, and plays the dastard with a long-bow through the impervious bushes of his prudential choice. He may print his falsehoods—aye! and swear to their truth, with absolute impunity. The thief is an honest man until found out—and the anonymous writer, at the worst, but a fool, albeit an impudent fool, until known as the unprincipled author of his mendacious wares. It is difficult to contend against an intangible being. Neither kicks nor cuffs can make any impression on a mere ghost—and there is no courage in the attempt to twist the nose of a shadow.

Yet, for once, I will play the Quixote, and for the Don's wind mill will choose this unembodied creature—this spiritless ghost—this Editor of the *Dull Packet*—this arch-fiend of the *Humbug Mercury*. Now mark the impudent assertion of the fellow:—

"We have never written or published a line in praise or advocacy of the Corporation of Hull."

Indeed! What then are this man's attacks upon me for what he calls "venting such calumnies" against the Corporators of Hull, who, as he says "have lived in repute so many years"? I have hunted the Town through for a file of his paper, in order to have exposed this lie more at length, but in vain. The uniform answer to my enquiry was "I keep a file of the *Portfolio*, but I know of no one who thinks the Packet worth the keeping." The very paper, however, in which he declares that he never wrote or published a line in praise or advocacy of the Corporation of Hull, enables me to expose the infamous falsehood of such his barefaced assertion. Is it no praise to say men have lived in repute for many years? Is it no advocacy of those men, to attack their opponent on the ground that his accusations are calumnies? Go to, fool; and, before you again stultify yourself, turn to Johnson's Dictionary and learn, or try to learn, the meaning of the words you may be paid to use—or, I should say, to abuse. If you have any character to stake on your consistency—or on your ability to appear consistent, I pray you Mister Editor, to be somewhat more careful than you have been on this occasion, lest your every lie should be, as in this instance, so glaringly apparent, that none—not even an Alderman, could imagine it to be truth, or hope that others might so mistake it.

"After a lengthened tirade against the Hull press generally all the members of which, of course, are proved to be rogues."—

This is admitting too much Mister *Wee-wee* of the Packet—or, it is very probable they of the Rockingham

and Advertiser. many think so. What is *proof*? Is it not the demonstration of truth? And although, in your candour or your ignorance, you certainly have a right to admit, which is the fact, that I have proved you the rogue I have conceived you to be, I am bound to reject your plea on behalf of your coadjutors. The present indictment is against you individually, and albeit you may admire the olden conceit of

"Swinging on Tyburne tree

In good and jovial company---"

it cannot be permitted you to convict your coadjutors or to charge the Jury against them. Suffice it, that you admit yourself a proven rogue. It is ingenious on your part—but, at least, give others the option of pleading "Not Guilty"—of questioning the sufficiency of the evidence—or of taking the chance of there being a flaw in the indictment. Whatever justice may require, the law gives every rogue this chance of escape. This "rogue" is a strong word—but it is *your word* and not mine.

In conclusion of the article headed "Acland" in last week's Packet, there is a bold attempt to vindicate the conduct of "THE EIGHT" by the assertion that all I have published relative to the objects and proceedings of that "deputation" is utterly groundless. Now, I am not to be led into a controversy on that question, for the simple and sufficient reason, that the compromise intended, or supposed to be intended, has not taken place. I care not by what means or by whose instrumentality it has been prevented. The Anti-Toll-Association goes on prosperously—and that is all that is necessary to the ultimate defeat of the Corporate Toll-exactors. If I attain all that is necessary, I am content; and, heedless of the desperate efforts of hireling scribes to withdraw me from my purpose by concocted falsehoods, I shall proceed in the course which utility to the community, and honor to myself, point out as the path of creditable ambition.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—May I beg your insertion of the following:—On Friday Night, the captain and owner of a Welch Schooner named the "John," whose name is Simon Roberts, a native of Navan, in North Wales, a husband and the father of seven children, met his death through falling from the quay at the foot of the North Bridge in the Harbour. Shortly after the alarm was given, the man was taken out of the water, but, in consequence of injuries received by falling against a sloop, he died the next morning.

Surely the above case calls loudly for attention on the part of those whose duty it is to provide for the safety of the unhappy passenger. Are the Corporators of Hull so selfish and cruel that they will not devote a small portion of the immense revenues they have been in the habit of exacting, to the erection of chains, lights, and the necessary preservatives? Only a few weeks ago, a man was drowned in the same spot. These are known cases; but how often is it that—persons may fall, when no one is passing, and be by the tide carried out to sea, and there perish---

"Without a grave, unknelt, uncoffined, and unknown."

Our Corporators are proverbially selfish, but I did hope they were not so lost to humanity as the above infer. Are there no means of compelling them to act as accountable beings? There is not even a light, worthy of the name, near the place, I presume none of the Aldermen live that way, and therefore they need not the accommodation for themselves. But are the lives of none but Aldermen precious? No one can say that the present state of the North Bridge is safe, even for those accustomed to the road, and much less to sailors who perhaps have never been at the port before.---I would also mention that the person who keeps the North Bridge Inn, refused, by closing his doors, to admit the poor fellow into his house.

I wish also, to give the proper meed of praise to all on the spot, for their efforts, and particularly to an officer of the Artillery, who was the foremost to render every good and kind office to the unfortunate man.

Your's, &c. W.

MEM:—*If W. be at all acquainted with our Corporators, he will not expect that they should expend money in preservation of the lives of the King's subjects resident within their rule and jurisdiction—without the erection of a Toll-gate on the spot so to be improved. A few lives cannot be of much moment to the public, whereas the outlay of a few shillings is of vital importance to those who need all they can scrape together for Aldermanic sustentation—i. e. venison, sweetbreads and wines. Improvement is at all times desirable—but Corporate improvements never cost more than they are worth, —unless by mistake. Until therefore an Alderman, or an Alderman's protégé or the black dog of an Alderman's protégé, shall have lost life or limb at the spot in question, it is most unreasonable to anticipate the disbursement of any portion of the funds under Aldermanic control.*

As to the conduct of the landlord of the North Bridge Inn—I am inclined to think he must rent under the Corporation, and acted prudently in refusing to aid in the restoration of one, who, if he died not, might have lived to give evidence against the infallibles of Kingston-upon-Hull. They say "dead-men tell no tales."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—That contemptible paper the Hull Packet, with its priggish proprietors and half-rooked Editor, has voluntarily become Scavenger to the Hull Corporation, discharging duties at which decency revolts, and common sense turns away with loathing and disgust.

Having been long acquainted with its utter worthlessness, I seldom take the trouble to examine either the editorial moonshine, or the senseless effusions of those wiseacres who aid and assist in giving the said moonshine a form and feature. It was therefore merely by chance that I got hold of the last number, and by a still greater chance that I read it. I found the contents, generally speaking, consisted of the usual portion of noodleism, ignorance, and imbecility, together with a sprinkling of childish affectation, for which *naturals* are invariably notorious. But in spite of all these stops and

hindrances, I *did* read it, "Laicus" included, and it is on a letter bearing this signature, that I am now going to make two or three remarks.

The Scavenger, has, it would seem, contained other letters from the same writer, but as I never saw them, I suppose they were pretty much on a par with the present production, and rest in peace and putridity amidst that nastiness which generates Corporate Morbus, and other direful diseases. But to the question: "Laicus" is somewhat of a poet, and by way of recommending his apology for the inexcusable conduct of the Corporation, and his accusation of you, to public notice, he roars you like any "sucking dove," or the chaunter of a Christmas Carol. Let us see what facts he has established:---I have not his letter before me, and must therefore trust to memory.

The Hull Corporators, says he, are respectable and intelligent men, and *consequently* they would not be guilty of committing a shabby action for the world. Admirable logician! excellent reasoner! Yet the same respectable and intelligent men, have it is avowed and known, charged more than they were justified in charging both for the *Ferry* and the *Tolls*. Some of them could *lie* a little also, when occasion seemed to require it. Does he doubt my assertion? Let him consult the Advertiser in the case of the Corporation versus Casson and Penrose, mentioned two or three weeks ago.

With these facts staring him in the face, and with others equally glaring, the sycophant still dares to propagate his tissue of lies, alike insulting to sense and probability.

Then again, so far as I can understand him, *you* raised the mob in Bristol; and not satisfied with that, *you* wished to have another mob here! The absurdity of such trash appears on the surface, and can be detected even by a correspondent to the "Two-penny worth of weekly blackguardism." Your defence of what you did at Bristol is before the Public and the slanderer by means of his friend and brother, the Scavenger, had much better endeavour to disprove your statements than to fabricate falsehoods which few read, and still fewer believe.

CLERICUS.

TO THE CORPORATORS OF HULL.

CORPORATE SIRS.--On Tuesday week, the Newspaper creature who does your dirty work, pretended to call upon you to vindicate yourselves from my calumnious attacks, by prosecuting me. I suppose the article in question to have emanated from your Aldermanic body, or to have been concocted at your instance by your learned Town-Clerk, and his fog the Wee-wee of the packet. That sort of thing is often done, by even greater men than yourselves---by the Ministers of State,---for the purpose of feeling the public pulse on a contemplated measure---or that they may do a something they have previously determined upon, as if they were compelled to do so, in deference to the expressed wishes, or in promotion of the interests of that same public they affect to serve.

You were thus called upon by your own tool to do that which you had previously determined upon. Accordingly in the very next Packet, I find the following paragraph:---

"We can positively state that an action for libel will be forthwith commenced against James Acland, the Editor of the *Portfolio*, for the atrocious libels upon the members of the Corporation, contained in the last number but one of that publication."

Is there not something official in this paragraph, and is it not inserted at your instance? Does it not announce your intentions? And why this formal proclamation of what will be? It was at your option to institute any persecution you might please; you have money enough---and malice enough and to spare for such purposes. You find that the spirit I have raised in Hull is too potent for your management; you discover that the Ferry Monopolists have no chance of beating me off the tumbler---that the Anti-Toll Association is neither to be cajoled nor frightened---and you have therefore but one chance of keeping up your Corporation---that of intimidating me, or of driving me from your town by persecution.

The attempt is about to be made. You are about to ape the antics of your Bristol Brethren. The Tory inquisition is preparing its legal torture. The terrors of bad laws, administered under a system of iniquity and corruption, are held up as a bugbear to fright me into approbation of your abominable misrule---or to banish me from the locality of your Corporate impositions.

But, Sirs, your mistake, first, your means---and next, your man. You are contending against the current of Public Opinion---the power of your steam is insufficient to impel so unwieldy a hull as that to which you would apply it---your machinery is out of order---your boiler requires continual tinkering---your engineer is scarcely competent to the duties of a stoker---your helm-man is inexperienced---your crew unwilling, and your vessel crazy!

With all these disadvantages you embark for a distant port against the head wind of popular indignation and in competition with an opponent who has beaten you over and over again---who has every probability of continuing his success---and against whom your very gain would be a loss.

Go on Gentlemen---if you are so weak as to allow your selves to be led by interested mediocrities and so utterly indifferent to character, as to sacrifice it at the bidding of a servile and sycophantic adviser. I have no wish to impede you in your headlong course. I can desire nothing better than that you should avail yourselves of every opportunity of demonstrating your ignorance---your folly and your exasperation. I full confess that I look upon your intended proceedings, as announced in your Corporate Gazette, with an eye of pity and a lip of scorn. I perceive that you are beginning to get savage---that you are losing your self-possession---that your judgment is giving way to your feelings---that you have whistled your philosophy to the winds---that you are no longer on your guard---that you are about to afford me an opportunity of pinning you---that you will shortly permit yourselves to be dragged into the Arena of a Court of Justice---that you will advertise yourselves to the world---and that, by your unintentional instrumentality, the plundered Burgesses will have their wrong proclaimed in a voice of thunder which will appal even your oppressors, the wasters of their heritage, and the consumers of the bread of their children.

Think you, that, by imprisoning me (should you be successful your contemplated effort) you will thereby content those you have wronged? Can you possibly imagine rational beings so easily gulled, as to disbelieve truth, because the law says "truth is a libel"? Do you suppose the Burgesses of Hull cannot distinguish between warrant for the committal of a truth-teller, and an account-current of your receipts and disbursements of their property, as their Trustees? You are not such fools---and, but for the paragraph in your Corporate Gazette, I would endeavor to think you not such rogues to act in utter defiance of every principle of right, and of every id of propriety.

You ought to have been careful that your characters stood, not merely free from stain, but above suspicion. Nothing can be of higher importance to you, as magistrates, as men, and, beyond all, as Trustees. In the latter capacity it is essential, before all things, that your integrity should be undoubted. Is it so? Alas! no. You traffic in the advantages of your situation—you pamper your appetites at the cost of others and without their consent—you are profuse in your expenditure of the property entrusted to you, for economical management and beneficial improvement. Of your cash accounts you allow nothing to transpire—if you can possibly avoid such recorded publicity. You are for these sufficient reasons, suspected of misversation. Nine men out of ten believe you to discharge the duties of your trust in an unprincipled manner. They think none among you would keep in your employ for a single hour a confidential servant who treated you, as you are treating the Burgesses. And they think correctly. Which of you would hesitate to kick such an unprincipled fellow into the street and to advise him as a rogue, that others might not be deceived, by his appearance, into the opinion that he was an honest man?

In the name of the Burgesses I am so advertising you. You, of course, object to the notoriety you have provoked; but you ought to be one of two things—either to change your quarters, or produce your accounts—either to prove yourselves honest, or admit yourselves rogues. But, no! You have a way of your own—a method peculiarly Corporate, whereby you would extricate yourselves from this dilemma. “The Law” say you, “holds truth to be a libel; we therefore will get this ‘fellow’ into gaol—and perhaps there may be some few who may thence conclude that we are all honorable men and honest Trustees!”

Shape your course, Sirs, as you will; I shall not be drawn from mine. Thank God! my craft will take a few thumps and bumps without irreparable damage or even material injury.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THOSE INTERESTED IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE HULL AND BARTON FERRY MONOPOLY.

Since I opened this Ferry I have sacrificed *Two hundred pounds* in Cash, and have incurred further liabilities to the amount of about *A hundred and fifty pounds*—with a view to the effectual destruction of this illegal Corporate Monopoly and imposition.

The “Humber Packet” Company now in course of formation, will make the necessary arrangements for the immediate building of a Steam Vessel every way adapted for this Ferry. The new Packet cannot however be ready before the first of May---and the question has been and is, how can the Ferry be kept open in the meantime?

My best friends have urged me to give up the contest during the intervening period, on the consideration that the loss consequent on the continuance of the opposition during the Winter months will be very great, and the advantage, if any, but trivial. My constant reply has been that most of my patrons have left the Cheater on a faith in my pledge that I would run to the last—that when unable to run I would walk—that when unable to walk I would limp—and that when unable to limp, I would hop. On the conviction that I am bound to save my friends, the liberal supporters of a public right, and the countless opposers of unprincipled obstinacy and lawless imposition, from the mortification of being compelled to travel by the Packet of the Monopolists, I determine, in the best way I can, to run “Public Opinion” throughout the Winter, and until the completion of the Company’s Steam Vessel.

Still I must not involve myself irretrievably even, for such a purpose. The old “Victory” is by far too expensive for a winter contest. I shall therefore immediately give her up---removing the flag of “Public Opinion” on board the more economical “British Queen.”

It having occurred to me that the present hours of running have been selected for the exclusive convenience of the coaches instead of that of the Public generally, I have determined on such alteration as appears to me calculated for the attainment of that object.

The hours of “Public Opinion” (commencing with Monday next,) will therefore be as follows:---

FROM HULL:—Six; Half-past Nine; Two; and Five o’Clock.
FROM BARTON:—Eight; Eleven; Four; and Seven o’Clock.

On Tuesdays and Fridays the first boat from Barton will call off Barrow and New-Holland for passengers for Hull, and the two o’clock boat from Hull will return them to those places,--- safe and commodious boats being provided at such ferries for the purpose.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—In your Portfolio of Saturday the 10th inst. I read of a certain single person in Ferris’s Hospital, on the Whitefriars-Gate Walls, who is in the yearly receipt of Forty Pounds, and upwards, from his own private property in the neighbourhood of Selby. Now Sir, this statement is grossly false, as I can at any time (if necessary) prove, for I only receive from the said property at Selby, the yearly sum of £13. 10s., and I have no property any where else. I state this for the satisfaction of no one, but in justice to myself,—and I further hope that you will contradict the above statement in your next Portfolio.

I am Sir, Your’s &c.

Hull, Dec. 12th, 1831. HENRY POPPLEWELL.

MEM:—It may be so—for I know nothing personally of the fact stated by my former correspondent, who will most likely explain the matter in my next Portfolio. However this may be, we have the admission of Popplewell himself, that he has an independent income of something above five shillings a week; and as there are many decayed seamen, who have no better portion than beggary or starvation, and who yet are refused a participation in the partial bounty of the Trinity House Corporators, I think the case of Popplewell, even on his own shewing, to be strong evidence of the abuse of this most valuable Charity.

J. A.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mr. S’s letter has been duly forwarded.

AN EXTRA PORTFOLIO

Will be published on Tuesday next—in order that a recent instance of Corporate impudence may be properly exposed, and the exasperation of the parties to Mr. Thompson, the Solicitor, and the publicity, to which it is so well entitled.

J. A.

THE TOWN AND COUNTY OF THE TOWN OF KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.

LISTER'S HOSPITAL.

(Continued from page 152.)

Sir John Lister, Knight, by his will, dated 26th Dec. 1648, after declaring his intention to erect an hospital for the habitation, and sustentation of six poor men, and six poor women, in or near Kingston upon Hull, bequeathed unto John Barnard, then Mayor, seven of the then Aldermen of Hull, and six others therein named, and their heirs, all his messuages, lands, and tenements, in Trinity Church Yard in Kingston-upon-Hull, together with the sum of £200. upon trust, that they should within a year after this death, pull down the said messuages, and erect one handsome building of brick, containing six low rooms, and six high rooms, and inclose the ground between the building and the street with a handsome brick wall for a court, to be paved, and a pump to be erected therein, and he directed that at the end of the said building, another little house should be built, containing three or four convenient rooms, for the habitation of the preacher assistant in Trinity Church for the time being; and he devised and bequeathed to the said trustees, and their heirs, his eighteen acres of land, and eleven beast gates with the appurtenances, in Thorngumbold, and Barehouse-hill, and also the sum of £400. in trust that his said trustees should employ the same in the purchase of lands, to them and their heirs, upon trust and confidence, to employ and bestow as well the profit of the land, so purchased as the land settled upon them, as aforesaid, in such manner as therein mentioned; that is to say, to the preacher assistant, who should be resident and inhabit the said new building intended for that purpose 40s. per annum, and all the residue (other than such sums as the trustees should think convenient for necessary reparations, and no other, and 20s. a year for the necessary entertainment of his trustees at the time of their meetings, and for paying the Clerk for the writing, and keeping the accounts) to be distributed among the said poor people, yearly, rate and rate alike. And he willed that when all his trustees, save two, were dead, the survivors should convey to the twelve eldest Aldermen of Kingston-upon-Hull, for the time being, and to their heirs upon the like trust, as well the said lands, and premises thereby devised, as the lands and tenements intended to be bought, and that the same should be done from time to time accordingly: and he further willed that his wife should have the nomination, of two of the said poor women during her life, and his eldest son the nomination of two of the said poor men, and after her death, his (the testator's) heirs should have the nomination of two of the said poor men, and two of the said poor women from time to time, and that the Mayor and Aldermen for the time being of Kingston-upon-Hull, should have the nomination and appointment of all the residue, provided that the said poor people to be chosen, should be

of good and honest reputation, and carriage, and that if they behaved themselves otherwise, it should be in the power of the Mayor and Aldermen to misplace and put out such as misbehaved; and he willed, and desired, that the assistant preacher should read prayers among the said people every day once (if he were in town;) and also instruct and catechise them every week, and in consideration thereof he gave him 40s. per annum, formally limited to be paid to him and his habitation.

An hospital and a house for the preacher, were erected in 1642, agreeably to the testator's will.

The hospital contains apartments for, and is occupied by twelve poor persons, six men, and six women.

The several estates of the charity have been from time to time conveyed, since the death of the original trustees, to twelve Aldermen of Hull, the last conveyance executed by all the proper parties but one (who is abroad) being dated the 6th, and 7th of May, 1822.

The Reverend John Colman as heir of Mrs. Green, formerly Miss Lister, lately deceased, who was the founder's heir, has the right of nomination of two men and two women to the hospital. This right has uniformly been exercised by the founder's heir for the time being; the other eight poor persons are appointed by the Mayor and Aldermen of Hull as trustees.

ESTATES AND PROPERTY.

1st, Three closes in the Township of Thorngumbold, in the parish of Paghill, or otherwise Paul, in Holderness, containing together 30a. 3r. 13p. which were awarded on the inclosure of Paul, in February 1822, under an act of Parliament in exchange for the lands, and beast-gates devised by the will. These closes are let to William Smith, as yearly tenant at £90. per annum, which is the full annual value.

2d, Certain closes of meadow or pasture land in Sculcoates. With respect to this property it appears from the minute book of the trustees, that in 1671, the sum £541. (being it is presumed the sum of £400. bequeathed by the will, with an accumulation of interest) was expended in the purchase of four closes in Sculcoates, containing together 33 acres. Of the land so purchased 5a. 3r. 2p. were sold in the year 1800 under the authority of an act of Parliament, to the commissioners of the Beverley and Barmston drainage, for the sum of £900. which was soon afterwards laid out in the purchase of £1128. 10. 6. four per cent. consols, and the remainder now in the possession of the trustees, is let to the tenants in the proportions and at the rents following, viz.

	A. R. P.		£.	s.	d.
John Lockwood	11 3 9	Lease for 20 years	70	0	0
George Smith	6 0 20	yearly tenant	27	0	0
William Clifford	6 0 20	do.	27	10	0
John Pearson	a ropery	do.	15	0	0
John Stamford	3 2 23	do.	10	0	0
Pearson Fox	6 3 32	do.	20	0	0
Pearson Fox	1 3 28	On lease for 47 years from Lady day, 1822.	30	0	0

The last mentioned lease appears to have been granted on advantageous terms to the charity, notwithstanding the length of the term, the rent being very high, and the land being taken for building purposes.

All the above lands, and premises are held at their most annual value.

3d. The sum of £1128. 10. 6. four per cent. consols, above mentioned, producing a yearly dividend of £45. 2. 8. per annum;

And £500. three per cent stock, purchased with surplus balances, and producing a dividend of £15. per annum;

The stock is standing in the name of two of the trustees.

The annual income of the charity amounts at present to £349. 12. 8.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE USUAL ANNUAL EXPENDITURE.

	£.	s.	d.
The weekly pay of the poor people being 7s. } a week to each	218	8	0
Teacher's salary	2	0	0
Clerk's salary	20	0	0
Fuels on an average	35	0	0
Repairs, water rent, turves, and sundry expences, on an average about	50	0	0
	£325	0	0

There is generally a balance or surplus left every year, which is kept at a Bank in Hull; it amounts at present to £65. or thereabouts.

The sum of £100. was paid out of the balance lately in hand, pursuant to the award of the commissioners of enclosure, on the occasion of the exchange of lands, in the parish of Paul, as a compensation for the inferiority of value of the land given up by the trustees. The teacher, or Lecturer of the Trinity Church, in Hull, has the use of the house, erected for the preacher, under the direction of the will which he lets for £18. a year; he receives the yearly stipend of 40s. provided by the will, and he reads prayers, and a lecture once a week in the hospital, on Thursdays.

The poor persons are not required to possess any other particular qualification, than that of being proper objects of charity; they all reside in the hospital.

The amounts are regularly audited, once a year by the Finance Committee of the Corporation. The hospital is kept in very good repair.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

With the exception of the Rockingham, the Hull papers do not pretend to liberal opinions. I used to take the Rockingham regularly, and was much pleased with its professions, but these please no longer. There are many cases of oppression in this town; let the Rockingham produce one single instance in which the oppression of any individual, by the local authorities in Hull, has been exposed in its columns. I don't mean cases which are doubtful, and in which honest men

might blunder conscientiously, but cases which admit of no bungling, and in which the Aldermen must have felt that they were acting not only unjustly and oppressively but *illegally*, to wit, Mr. Jackson's case. Did the Rockingham expose this case? If it did not, what sort of case would it expose—for no case can be more glaringly outrageous.

The conduct of these worshipful Aldermen was so infamous, that even lawyer Scarlet, who was hired to defend them, was ashamed of his brief and shrunk from the task imposed upon him. The judge was so disgusted with the conduct of these Aldermen, that he said in an under tone "this is a case which cannot be further proceeded in" and yet the Rockingham published no account of this case. If the *whig* Rockingham have no object in view except the support of the law, and the protection of property, why was this outrage on the law, this concerted (for the time selected was most inhuman) violation of property allowed to pass unnoticed? Let the Rockingham answer this, before it makes any further professions of respect for the law or for property. This whig paper may set a high value on law, but does it not set a much higher value on the favor and good opinion of these Aldermen? I should like to know why these worshipful Aldermen dragged Mr. Jackson to York, not once only, but twice. Was it to shew that they could violate the law at pleasure? Or did they fancy that adding injustice to injustice would prove that no injustice had been done? Or was it to gratify their wounded pride and malignant disposition?

The Rockingham has held back, till its assistance is not needed. The Portfolio is open to the people, to the poor as well as the rich. Let those whom the Aldermen have oppressed either in demanding tolls or levying taxes, state their grievances, in as few words as may be necessary to a clear and true statement of the case, and they will obtain, at least, the justice of publicity. I am, Sir, A BURGESS.

MEN:—The Editor of the Rockingham is a very Judas—and for the smile of an Alderman would sell his masters, the Public. Has he not sanctioned the injustice of years, by his Editorial silence? Has he not winked at Corporate oppression and Magisterial illegality? Has he not been as much the ally of the Aldermanic despots as ever Austria and Prussia were the allies of the Northern barbarian in his recent crusade against the Patriotic Poles? Of what value then is his present fit of liberality? His jealousy of my popularity has drawn him forth; from the obscurity into which his indolence and indifference to the best interests of the community had plunged him. If there be any thing of good in him—or any value in his productions, it may be said with truth, that it is I who have made him what he is! No one will question his ability—but ability is not a virtue; and the man who is gifted with the power of serving his fellow creature, yet neglects the beneficial exercise of that power, resembles the man in our Saviour's parable who hid his talent in a napkin instead of improving it to the infinite extent of its capacity for usefulness. J A.

A COPY OF THE CHARTER GRANTED BY KING CHARLES THE SECOND TO THE TOWN OF HULL, DATED THIRD OF DECEMBER, ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY ONE.

(Continued from page 156.)

AND FURTHERMORE, for the more certain execution of Justice, and the better castigation and punishment of Offenders in the Town or Borough aforesaid, and County of the same, according to the Law and Statutes of this our Kingdom of England, we will, and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors, for our greater especial grace, and our certain and mere motion, we do give and grant to the aforesaid Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull aforesaid, and to their Successors, that the Mayor, Recorder, and Deputy Recorder, and Aldermen of the Town or Borough for the time being, and in the absence of the Recorder and Deputy of the same Recorder for the time being we will to be two, so long, and until the Council of us our Heirs and Successors again shall be established in the Northern Parts of this our Kingdom of England as it hath been in times past, and that from and after such Council so established, the aforesaid Mayor of the Town or Borough aforesaid for the time being, and any two persons which for the time being shall be of such Council of us our Heirs and Successors, and the Fee of us our Heirs and Successors there from time to time to be named and chosen by the Mayor and Aldermen of the Town or Borough aforesaid for the time being, or the greater part of them, whereof the Mayor for the time being we will to be one, and that the Recorder, Deputy Recorder, and Aldermen of the Town or Borough aforesaid for the time being, or any seven or more of them, whereof the Mayor of the Town aforesaid for the time being, and the aforesaid two persons of the Council aforesaid for the time being in form aforesaid to be chosen, and the Recorder of the Town for the time being, and in his absence to the Deputy of such Recorder for the time being we will to be four from time to time for ever hereafter shall be respectively the Justices of us our Heirs and Successors, of Goal delivery, of and in the Town aforesaid for the delivery of such Prisoners as from time to time for ever shall be committed to the Goal or Prison of the Town or Borough; and that the Sheriff and Coroners of the same Town or Borough respectively for the time being, from time to time shall make and return all Juries, Inquisitions, Pannels, Attachments and Indentures, by them or either of them respectively taken, or hereafter to be taken before the said Justices for the delivering of the Goal aforesaid, and the Prisoners aforesaid from thence in form aforesaid respectively constituted for the time being, when, and as often as they that Goal, and the Prisoners thereof aforesaid for the time being would deliver, and to them from time to time they shall be attendant in all things of and concerning the Premises.

AND FURTHERMORE, from time to time they shall make due execution and return of all the Precepts of these Justices respectively in such like manner and form as any other Sheriff or Coroner of this our Kingdom of England heretofore done, or have done, or hath done, or to do or execute have been accustomed, or hath been accustomed, or they or he ought according to the Laws, Statutes, and Customs of our said Kingdom.

AND FURTHERMORE, of our greater grace, and of our certain knowledge and mere motion, for us our Heirs and Successors we do grant and confirm to the aforesaid Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull aforesaid, and to their Successors for ever, all, and all manner, of Freedoms, Liberties, Franchises, Immunities, Exemptions, Quitances, and Jurisdictions; moreover all and singular the same and such like Lands and Tenements, Marts, Markets and Fairs; selling of all Chattels whatsoever, and Heriots Customs, Liberties, Privileges, Franchises, Immunities, Freedoms, Exemptions and Jurisdictions which the Burgesses of the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull, of which the Burgesses and Commonality of the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull, which the Mayor, Bailiff, and Burgesses of the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull, their Successors' whosoever, by whatsoever names they be known, or be called, or by whatsoever name, or by whatsoever Incorporation, or pretence of whatsoever Incorporation before this they have been incorporated, they have lawfully had, held, or they have used or enjoyed or to have, hold, use or enjoy, they ought to have, had held or enjoyed, or hath, or have been due to them and their Successors for ever, of state of Inheritance by reason or pretence of any Charters or Letters Patent by us or any of our Progenitors, or any other Person, or of any other Persons whatsoever, by whatsoever manner before this made, conformed or granted, or in whatsoever other lawful manner, right, custom, use, prescription or title before this lawfully used, had an accustomed, and by these Presents not annihilated, changed or diminished the Statute in Parliament of our Lord Henry 6th late King of England, set forth in the eight and twentieth year of his reign, or any other Statute in the twenty-ninth year of said King Henry 6th late King of England set forth, or in the Statute of the 33d. year of his reign set forth, or in any other Statute, Act, Ordinance or Provision before this set forth, ordained, or provided in any thing notwithstanding, and notwithstanding any usage or abuse thereof before this done or committed, except notwithstanding always, and out of this our present Grant to us our Heirs and Successors, always to be reserved our Market every week upon Friday, in the same Town or Borough before this holden; and also one Fair or Market yearly, to begin on the day of St. Austin, and at twenty-nine days then next following, to endure in the same Town or Borough before this holden and kept and before the making of these our Letters Patent

(To be concluded in my next.)

THE
Hull Portfolio;

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES ACLAND.

"Bonis nocet quisquis pepercit malis."—CICERO.
HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY JAMES ACLAND, NO. 38, QUEEN-STREET, HULL.

EXTRA NUMBER. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1831.

One Penny.

CORPORATE IMPUDENCE.

"What can you expect from a pig, but a grunt?"

"You have but to give the fellows rope enough, and they'll hang themselves."

The people of Hull have long suffered under the iron sway of its chartered despots. With this select squad of Borough Oligarchists self has been the moving principle, and those who have studied human nature with attention, well know to what beggarly meanness selfish men will descend for the gratification of their passions, their follies, or their fancies. That our Corporation should have stooped to imposition and extortion for the mere filling of their skins and distention of their paunches is therefore, but in accordance with the law of nature, by which it pleaseth them to be actuated. Short sighted mortals could not perceive this small point on the ocean of improbable facts—but when their attention has been drawn to it, their observations have been correct, and their conclusions thereupon as accurate as if the discovery had been made by themselves. The people of Hull had felt that they were taxed beyond their means; but they believed the taxation legal, and therefore it was not considered beyond endurance. So, they endured—and paid—and grumbled. I came among them and demonstrated that they who imposed these taxes were no better than impostors—obtaining money under false pretences, by levying taxes without the warrants of law. These taxes are now felt to be beyond endurance—because the tax-payers now know them to be extortions.

Shakespeare has said that "he who is robbed, not wanting what is stolen, let him not know it, and he's not robbed at all." This may be true, and, whether or no, I shall not discuss the matter at this time; but here the parties taxed did want which was extortionately taken from them, for, hardworking men in hard times want all they can earn, and can ill afford to fatten Aldermen with the fruits of their labor—the produce of their toil. I therefore am not troubled with any compunctious visitings of conscience for the part I have

taken in the business. If I saw a pickpocket at work on my neighbour's personals, I should be sure to tell him of it, and most likely should collar the fellow; and when I see a pack of lazy Corporators apeing the ingenuity of the Pickpocket, and exceeding him only in the assurance with which they draw to themselves the property of others—I will cry out—for I cannot hold any peace without feeling that, morally speaking, I render myself an accomplice in the roguery perpetrated.

I sounded the alarm—the dupes are resolved to be dupes no longer—the schemes of the extortioners become unproductive.—they bounce and bluster and threaten legal vengeance,—the "awakened" employ an independent Solicitor—the "thwarted" try to bully him—I publish the evidence of their tom-foolery and hers you, my readers, have it, in black and white.

Read it, mark the evidence it affords of Corporate arrogance, Corporate impudence and Corporate iniquity. Bear in mind that "this Codd" was dished up at the Hospital the other day—that Mr. Thompson is one of the Candidates for the office of which he has been deprived—and then read the letter from "the Codd" to Mr. Thompson, and that from Mr. Thompson of and concerning the Coddism of the Corporate Coddites.

I am no conjuror, nor are you fools—so I doubt not you can put *this* and *that* together, as well as

Your's

JAMES ACLAND.

Mr. THOMPSON, Solicitor, Hull.

GUILD-HALL, HULL,

Dec. 13, 1831

SIR.—Your letters of the 28th ulto. and the 1st instant, on the subject of the Toll Actions, were this day taken into consideration by the Mayor and Aldermen, but as they contain no offer for payment or security of the Tolls pending the Actions so as to abide the event of the same, which appears to be both fair and reasonable, your proposal cannot be entertained; and as you have thought proper in a most unarrantable, unjust, and unprofessional manner to reflect on the motives and intentions of the members of the Corporation, because forsooth, they have not deemed it necessary to meet together and reply to your letters quite so promptly as you imagined their importances demanded (and which could only be imaginary, the Writs not being returnable before the 11th of Jan.

next) they have determined not to subject themselves to any further insult or misrepresentation for unworthy purposes, and in future decline any communication with you beyond what may be strictly and professionally necessary; you will therefore adopt your own course with respect to the Actions you may be employed to defend; and when the proper time arrives, the Court will not find the Corporation backward in agreeing to any equitable terms of consolidation.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

GEO. CODD.

Town Clerk.

TO THE ANTI-TOLL COMMITTEE.

Mayor and Aldermen of Hull, v. The Toll Payers.

GENTLEMEN,

Enclosed I send you copy of a letter dated, "Guild Hall, Hull, 13th, Dec. 1831," signed "George Codd, Town Clerk," enclosed in another from Mr. Codd to myself, in which he states that he is desired by the Mayor and Aldermen to send me the letter, a copy whereof I herewith forward. Mr. Codd denies any intention on his part (and I believe it) of having treated my letter with silent contempt, and recommends me in future to be as tenacious of the characters of others as I profess to be of the funds of my employers.

You will see by the enclosed that I am charged with having "thought proper in a most unwarrantable, unjust, and unprofessional manner to reflect on the motives and intentions of the members of the Corporation, because forsooth they have not deemed it necessary to meet together and reply to my letters quite so promptly as I imagined their importance required." This charge I totally deny, though as I early in life determined never during the progress of any suit in which I may be employed, to allow my personal affairs to get mixed up with my clients' business, but to reserve all such matters when they occur for after consideration, when the business of my clients shall have been ended, I shall not at present enter into any personal altercation on the subject with my accusers; but, as I should be unworthy to be continued your Attorney if I have acted in the way represented, I deem it necessary that to you I should justify myself. How stands the matter? Thus.

The Corporation are found to be charging certain Tolls, which there is reason to believe cannot be justified in Law, and a subscription is publicly entered into for the purpose of enabling the Market-people to try the question at Law, they being poor men in general, and unable to contend the point against the Corporation purse; and till this point is settled, those who have hitherto been charged Toll, refuse to pay it any more; whereupon, the Corporation, professing to be anxious to try the question, and establish their rights in open court, commence, not two or three, but a great number of actions (forty-two copies of writs are in my hands) far more than one would think could be necessary for trying the Corporation's rights; so thought the public as well as myself, and the opinion that the measure was oppressive, and only intended to exhaust the

funds of the Anti-Toll Committee, was pretty frequently both hinted at and expressed in the Newspapers, and in general conversation through the Town,—in consequence of which numbers who are friends of fair play were voluntarily coming forwards, daily, to assist your funds, but just when that effect of the number of writs issued became apparent, a paragraph appears in the Rockingham of the 26th November last, (inserted it afterwards seems upon what the Editor had just reason to consider good authority) "That the Corporation had expressed their willingness and desire to withdraw all the actions but one,—if any party would agree to bring it to an issue." The effect of such notification was, that it induced your friends to believe you did not stand in need of such liberal pecuniary assistance as they had thought you did, when they heard of the number of actions brought—causing them to hold back their assistance in many instances. Well, thereupon I wrote the same day Messrs. Codd and Levett, the plaintiff's Attornies, as appeared by the indorsement upon the writs, to say, that if what was stated in the Rockingham rested on any foundation, I should be happy to meet them to make an arrangement on behalf of forty-one persons whom I defend, or to that effect; and within two or three hours (mark this!) I received a polite letter from Messrs. Codd and Levett acknowledging the receipt of that letter, and informing me that it would be laid before the Mayor on the following Monday.

Accordingly on the following Monday, I received the reply copied in my last to you, whereby I learnt that the Mayor was not aware on what authority the Editor of the Rockingham had made the statement alluded to, and wherein it is stated that, "if I, as the Solicitor employed to defend the actions, had any proposal to make for consolidating them, the same would immediately receive the prompt consideration of the Mayor and Aldermen." I shewed the letter to several friends of your cause, who, as well as others, whose names I do not feel myself at liberty to mention in this matter without their permission, assured me that notwithstanding that letter, the information supplied to the Rockingham was substantially correct, as they had had the same thing named to themselves by Aldermen; indeed, by these means I found that the idea that all the actions would be dropped but one, was very generally received, and though your funds consequently did not increase so fast as before, on the one hand, yet if the report were true, there would be a saving of expence on the other, it seemed not a matter of so much moment, as it would be, if the stoppage were put to your supplies and the expence of forty-one actions still going on; but, as it was necessary to ascertain whether we could consolidate or not, I on the 28th November, wrote Messrs. Codd and Levett again, with the proposal for consolidation as mentioned in my letter of that date copied in my last letter to you. The receipt of that proposal having neither been acknowledged as the former

one had been, nor in any way answered, I, on the first of December, addressed another letter to Messrs. Codd and Levett, also copied in my last letter to you, in which I expressed my anxiety to have an answer to mine of the 28th of November, and suggested that if my proposal did not suit them, I hoped they would make a proposal on their part. The receipt of this letter was never acknowledged, nor had any answer to it arrived up to the 5th of December, at which time I gave up all idea of receiving any answer, and consequently, in a letter of that date communicated to you, as my clients, what had passed, as I conceive I was professionally bound to do, and at the same time stated certainly that I felt my letters had been treated with silent contempt. And I think any one else in my situation would have done the same; here, however, let me state that I did not believe Messrs. Codd and Levett had themselves any wish to treat me in an ungentlemanlike manner, for I have always found those respectable gentlemen act towards me, heretofore, in a friendly manner. My idea was (since my first letter was duly acknowledged on its receipt, but my last two remained unnoticed, notwithstanding the prompt and immediate attention promised in their letter of the 28th November) that they had been directed by their clients not to notice my letter.

I still think the circumstances fully justified me in coming to that conclusion, and having done so, it was my professional duty to inform you how the matter stood. That I did by letter, because from the first I found it was the only way in which without a great sacrifice of time, I could communicate matters I was bound to make known to the 41 Defendants as well as yourselves. But then I suppose it is said my letter is printed. True; but you well know that I was not aware of that, till I saw it in the pages of the Portfolio. The question in dispute is a public question, and I do not deny your right to make public any communications I send you, that being entirely a matter for yourselves to decide upon, though I would suggest that publishing my letters may not always be an advisable method of informing the public of the state of the proceedings, for there may be observations and hints proper to pass between your confidential adviser and yourselves not meant for the public eye, and though there is nothing in my published letter that I would retract, yet I should probably have been a little more guarded in my language, had I supposed my letter would be published. However, as in an Action where the Plaintiffs are Trustees for upwards of 2000 Burgesses and the Defendants dispute the Tolls, not only for themselves, but on behalf of upwards of 60,000 persons, equally interested in the question, the Public have a right to know and will know in some way, what is going on, I conceive authentic information must be given from some source as to the state of the proceedings, and if so, I cannot see where is the harm in your affording it, for a question of so public a nature cannot be conducted with the same privacy as a dispute between two merchants about freight or demurrage would be. If you however published my letter to you, you will clearly see that cannot be laid to my charge as an unprofessional Act.

Again; it is said, I have improperly reflected on the motives and intentions of the Members of the Corporation, and it is intimated I have insulted and misrepresented them from unworthy motives.—Gentlemen I disclaim all intention of insulting Members of the Corporation, and I am sure it would be far from your wish that I should

do so; it has never been my intention to do it, and whilst I will fearlessly and strenuously exert my best abilities, to defeat what I am satisfied is an illegal Corporate claim, and whilst I profess myself an enemy to Corporate Oppression, wherever it exists (I mean my expressions to be taken generally, and not as applicable to Hull alone) I disclaim all idea of insulting the individual members of the Body. It is true I have in my letter reflected on the motives of those individuals, who I have been informed have taken great pains to convince your friends that the Corporation only wish to try one Action—but the reflections on those motives are not of my suggesting, they have been the subject of public and private discussion and observation ever since the writs were issued. And had I not, I ask good reason, when I alluded to them in my letter to you, to believe that the policy attributed to those individuals by others was well founded,—for at that time, I think it will be manifest that I thought and had good reason to think, and still do think the proposal I had made for consolidating the actions, were treated by the plaintiffs with silent contempt, and that all chance of effecting such consolidation was at an end. And when I see certain results following certain causes, have I not reason to believe that those who put those causes into action, intend the necessary results to follow them, especially when those results are beneficial to them, and most prejudicial to their opponents. Then when I saw 41 actions brought to try points which might be effectually tried in 1, 2 or 3 actions, I in common with others certainly thought, that was done to diminish your cash in hand as quickly as possible. And when I learnt, that at the same time, members of the Corporate Body are professing that the Corporation are willing to abandon all but a requisite number of those Actions, and that the Public believe that to be so, whilst the Corporate Body itself shews no disposition to comply with any plan of consolidation, nor to notice the proposal submitted to them with that view, (for such construction I put, and I think I had every reason to put on their silence in respect to my overtures) and when I saw that the effect of the representation so made was to diminish your pecuniary supplies had I not some reason for believing that those were not mistaken who thought the whole proceedings were intended to exhaust your Coffers on the one hand, and stop your supplies on the other, and so beat you by length of purse; and having reason to believe those who thought so, were not mistaken, was there any thing unprofessional in my giving the hint to my Clients that they might guard against the policy I had reason to believe was attempted to be played off upon them?—No I should have failed in my duty to you, had I done otherwise,—but in doing so I confess I meant it as a communication between ourselves to put you on your guard; perhaps however I should have done better to have said so.—Again; it is imputed to me that the reason I wrote to you as I did, was “forsooth, because the members of the Corporation had not deemed it necessary to meet together so promptly as I imagined they ought to have done,” upon the subject of my proposals. I deny ever having entertained a thought of the kind. On the contrary, I fancied the Corporation had met and resolved I should have no answer, for I was promised *prompt and immediate* attention to any proposal I made.—And, if circumstances prevented that being given—a line from the Solicitors, acknowledging the receipt of my letter, and saying that they would be submitted to a board, which would probably meet at such a time, would have been, in my judgment, the proper way of treating my communications; at least, I can safely say that had I received any such intimation, you would not have heard from me till the board had met, and the question had been determined upon. The silence, therefore, observed towards me especially as my last letter shewed plainly I was expecting some sort of communication, was my reason for writing to you, to report the attempt I had made to consolidate, which I firmly believed I was doomed never more to have noticed by the Plaintiffs. But had they never, in fact, had any opportunity of considering my letters till now? I at least believed, and do believe, they had—for the newspapers were full of accounts of their having received deputations relating to the very subject.

One observation more and I have done. Mr. Codd's observations about my care of the funds of my clients evidently implies that care arises from my being your Solicitor, and likely to be benefited thereby. I am sure you will acquit me of any such selfish motive. I told you at first I was in no situation to advise

money to carry on the suit, and you very generously offered to pay me for what I did, as I went on, if I wished it. As I told you at first you ought, at least, to have £1000 before trial, (not that the whole will necessarily be wanted, but yet it *may* so) and having lately had my reasoning confirmed on that subject, by information from Boston, East Retford, Gainsbro', Cambridge, &c. where similar trials have occurred, I have felt it my duty to draw your attention to what seemed likely to stop your supplies, because, should they fail of amounting to the requisite sum, justice might elude our grasp, when just within the reach. And I also draw your attention more particularly to those facts, because if 41 actions are to go to trial, they must necessarily cost more than one, (though certainly not 41 times as much by a good way) the same documentary evidence, which is very expensive, being sufficient for each action.

I trust I have fully justified my conduct to you, and do hope that in any way you may judge it necessary to shew the letter in which I am so unjustly reprobated, you will also shew this, my justification. I still think my letters were treated with undeserved silent contempt, and might have been answered or ought to have been acknowledged sooner; and that hearing of meetings of the Corporation in the mean time, and receiving no answer from them, I simply did my duty in naming the matter as I did to you, and pointing out to you the effect produced on your supplies; and whilst upon that subject, I may as well mention, since some of your friends are fearful of subjecting themselves to the penalties of maintenance, if they subscribe to your support, that I have been favoured with the sight of an opinion of the present Lord Chief Justice Tindal, upon the East Retford toll case, in which he says, "That all persons who have a common interest in a subject, may lawfully combine to bring or defend actions concerning it, and will not be guilty of maintenance by doing so—and that, as all his Majesty's subjects have an interest in free markets, they may all combine lawfully to resist tolls being imposed, or which are supposed to be unlawfully charged there."

I trust I have fully justified myself to you, and that you will see that my conduct herein was only such as I was in duty bound to follow towards my clients, (that duty I always will follow, let who will be offended, being as careful as I can to avoid giving offence, consistently with my duty) and I cannot but think every unprejudiced mind must see that the unjust accusations made against me, are not the *cause*, but only the *pretext* for the Corporation declining further communications from me, respecting consolidating the 41 actions I defend, and which, it seems, they have determined to proceed in, till compelled in court to consolidate, which, I fear, cannot be done till six or seven pounds more have been expended in each action, which, in 41 actions, will amount to £287; and then it can only be done if the plaintiffs consent willingly to it—the rule being, that the court will not consolidate actions against different defendants for the same cause of action, except by consent of the plaintiffs, as may be seen in 1 Tidd, 686—and it seems, after all the expence incurred in the 41 actions, which, by that time, will, on both sides, amount to about £500, the plaintiffs have determined not to consent to a consolidation rule, except some of the defendants will be bound for the amount of tolls remaining unpaid, pending the action—and I fear none of the defendants are rich enough to be accepted, if any of them were willing to offer himself as such surety. On the other hand, if, in the mean time, you pay the tolls, they are irrecoverably lost, as no action will lie for recovery of money voluntarily paid under a mistake as to the legal liability to pay it—only where it is paid under a mistake as to facts. But if the intervention of a trustee were to be adopted, pray *what* is to be paid? As yet I can obtain no rule of any certain tolls demanded. The sums seem to have rested on the whim or fancy of the collector. *What*, therefore, in such case, should we have to pay? Your's differs from the Liverpool case. There is no dispute about what is due, if any thing is due, and as the total amount of dues claimed (I believe on goods imported) amounts to near £50,000 a year, it follows, that if the Corporation did not receive some security in the mean time, till the dispute be settled, they may, if there be a decision in their favour, lose considerable

sums from the intermediate failure of the merchants liable to the tolls, some merchants having as much as £360 or £400 a year, I understand, to pay in that way. But at Hull, suppose the Corporation to succeed (as I believe, however, they never will) in establishing a claim to the amount of 6d a market day, that is 1s. 6d. per week, from each defendant—that, in half a year, (which it will take, perhaps, to bring the point to a legal issue) will amount to £1. 9s. per man, which, or even any larger sum, will be readily paid, if proved to be due; and, if withheld, can then be enforced as well as now—and should three or four fail in the mean time, it will be no great loss to the Corporation—and what more likely to occasion such failure than pursuing the poor fellows with costs in the mean time? If the sum in jeopardy were great, as in the Liverpool case, that circumstance would justify incurring the comparatively small expence of an action to compel such toll or due payer to find security for his tolls *pendente lite*; but when the claim is small, as here, I can but view in one light the incurring the comparatively ruinous expence of an action against the poor market people for a similar purpose. However, it is now clear that the power is in the Corporation's hands, and that they will exercise it; and it only remains for you to consider whether any thing and what can be done in this extremity, to avert that determination, or to propitiate the plaintiffs on their own terms.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Yours' truly,

THOMAS THOMPSON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

Hull, Dec. 13th.

MR. EDITOR,—Considering good health to depend solely on a good constitution, will you have the kindness to inform me in your weekly bulletin, (as I can rely on your publication being a true report from our board of health) if the constitution of the Hull Court of Requests is yet out of danger, and whether it is still considered necessary to let flow from its vitals (which, by the bye, are the poor and needy) to the amount of 200 Golden Drops annually, to pamper the appetite of the rib of a late principal member?

I am Sir,

Your's &c.

A CONSTANT READER.

MEM:—It is considered that a good purgation will be the most remedial measure which can be devised for the restoration of this patient from the effects of the Corporate morbus whereby it has been reduced to so lamentable a state of imbecility and inefficiency. I swear, by my diploma, that it shall have such purgation. If a three grain pill will not do, the dose has only to be doubled—and doubled it shall be, or I know nothing of the Galenicals of Morality and Justice.

J. A.

Printed and Published by JAMES ACLAND, sole Proprietor, and Editor No. 38, Queen-Street, Hull.

THE Bull Portfolio;

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES ACLAND.

"Bonis nocet quisquis pepercit malis."—CICERO.
HE INJURES THE GOOD, WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY JAMES ACLAND, NO. 38, QUEEN-STREET, HULL.

THIRD EXTRA.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1831.

One Penny.

TO THE EDITORS OF "THE ADVERTISER" AND THE ROCKINGHAM.

SIRS: In your respective papers of Friday, and Saturday, I observe you report the accident at Messrs. Terry's wharf. You state that the poor man fell from the second floor of the warehouse, and was carried to the infirmary, much bruised, and with his left collar bone broken. Were not your reporters aware—were not you aware, that Surgeon Lee was called in, and refused his assistance unless first guaranteed his bill, in possibility? How is it you make no mention of this disgraceful fact? Is it because the Surgeon is the son of the constabulary busy-body? Or why is it? Many imagine that your silence is more or less attributable to your dread of giving offence to the Corporate patrons of the father of this humane professor of the healing art. For my part, I think you will be puzzled satisfactorily to explain your singular omission of a circumstance which so strongly demanded Editorial castigation. Had it been one of your relatives who was subjected to such inhuman treatment, would either of you have screened the delinquent as you have! Oh, no!—but the sufferer was a poor man—and unknown to you—and hence your apathy in this disgraceful business.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE PARISHIONERS OF THE HOLY TRINITY.

MY FRIENDS,—You may perchance have seen in the "Packet" of the the two last weeks, a declaration on the part of its *We-we*, that the Corporate heads of our town have lived in repute amongst you for many years. I have taken leave to correct this imperfect statement, by contending that that repute must have been an evil repute—and I beg to appeal to you for the confirmation of my opinion. To this end I would recal your remembrance of your own opinion of those *reputable* Corporators, as recorded in your Parish books. Did you not, some eight or nine months since—five or six hundred of you being then assembled in the body of your Parish

Church—a hired advocate being then the defender of their alleged infallibility—his abettor on that occasion being a tax-gatherer—their supporters being but five or six individuals of the description generally known as *Church mice*—did you not there and then pass a resolution of strong censure on the reputable set who insulted you in the persons of your Churchwardens, by causing their arrest for money safely deposited by the Governor and Guardians of the Poor, to await the issue of an impending motion in a Court of Law? And can there be a doubt of the sort of repute in which the men thus censured have lived among you? Can it be questioned that they have uniformly opposed themselves to the interests of the Borough and the feelings of its inhabitants? Would they not rather insult you than defer a dinner—arresting your representatives and forestalling the decision of the Judges rather than postpone a guzzling bout or diminish the quantity of strong drink thereafter. Verily they are in evil repute—for they are few indeed who can give them a commendatory character, save those who might do so from motives as questionable as the testimony they might be influenced or interested to offer.

The affairs of your Parish will shortly possess an interest with me, which will require my more frequent correspondence with you. You have been hitherto outwitted—but the Act of Parliament will not again serve the turn of those who care but little for such documents, unless to answer their selfish and temporary purposes. Easter is now advancing upon us with rapid strides. Hole-and-corner work will then be at an end. The jobbing system shall then be destroyed. You will cease to pay taxes for the gratification of Orthodox fancies, and the gain of Orthodox contractors. And, as parishioners, you will then resume your proper weight and influence and control, in and over the affairs which so immediately, and so essentially affect you.

JAMES ACLAND.

My expenses in opening the Barton Ferry Monopoly have at length their termination. I have therefore to request those who have claims upon me, to favor me with their accounts forthwith.

LISTER'S HOSPITAL.

I understand the Trustees of this Charity, let a close of land (6A. QR. 20P.) to Wm. Clifford, and another (3A. 2R. 23P.) to a person of the name of Stamford. The rental paid by these individuals, is of course that of the value of the land at the time it was leased or let. But I am informed that the clay had been previously sold off the land in question; that such clay is now worth about a hundred and fifty pounds an acre; that the value of the land has been consequently, and by such sale of the clay, decreased to the annual extent of probably a pound an acre; and that there appears to have been no account of a credit to the charity for the amount produced by the sale of the clay off these two closes of land. Can Mr. William West, the brickmaker, throw any light on this matter—or can Alderman Egginton? If they, or either of them can so further the ends of Justice, I will assume their disposition to aid me in vindicating the cause of the friendless, and shall be most happy to receive any communication explanatory of the case thus generally noticed.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

Sculcoates, Nov. 11th, 1831.

SIR,—I beg you to accept my thanks for your unwearyed and steady exposure of the villainous Tories and Boroughmongers in the Town and neighbourhood. I would fain hope the time is not very remote, when all the public robbers will be brought to that justice their crimes deserve. What do you think Sir, of the Church Parsons? Will you believe it Mr. Acland, you have aroused the fury of that man of God, (or I think rather of Belzebub) Mr. Baskett, of the Charter House, He has told some of the country tenants, he could shoot you, with clean hands and a clear conscience. Holy man this, Mr. Acland. A fine minister of religion this! I will say no more, but to assure you it's a fact. And I would advise you to cut them in every way you possibly can, for they are a set of canting hypocrites.

I remain, Sir,

Your's truly,

A REAL REFORMER.

MEM:—This may be true, or it may be otherwise. There were bad parsons in Bristol who would have been very glad to have met the Editor of the Bristolian in a bye-lane, on a dark night. They would have been provided with the necessary means for ridding the world, or rather the rogues of the world, of such a "fellow" as myself. My life has been often threatened—yet I live to expose scoundrels and hypocrites and such vermin of humanity—and most assuredly I will continue to live, as long as I can, for so benevolent a purpose. Die when, or how I may, I desire no better epitaph than "Here lies one who was useful to his fellow creatures—the friend of the poor, and the enemy of their oppressors!" Will such an epitaph ennoble the burial places of blood thirsty parsons or Corporate impostors?

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—As you are trying the legality (I should say illegality) of some of our Corporate Tolls, I would wish to know their authority for forcing from the poor Fishermen a large portion of their hard-earned cargo, in Tolls of Fish, Oysters, Cockles, &c. &c. which they are continually doing. Passing through Silver Street the latter part of last week, I think Saturday, I met a cart with large letters formed into that once swaggering word, "CORPORATION"—piled up with Oysters. Now Mr. Editor, I enquire, do they eat them at their Feast, or do they make Sauce of them, and then change that Sauce into Arragance?

The very servant that filled the Cart, was too great for it, but hired another man. Hoping you will look into this,

I remain,

Your's, &c.

BULL.

MEM:—What an unreasonable man is this Mister Bull. Does he not know that they who have no money, deserve to have their oysters taken from them—by the trustees of the Burgesses of Hull? How else are those gentlemen to evince their superiority, if they are to be prevented taking their allowance from the saleable commodities of the poor fishermen and others?

J. A.

STONEFERRY CHARITY.

My original notice of the abuses of this Charity was grounded on an insufficient information. Mr. Bromby replied to me in the columns of one of the newspapers, offering an inspection, if my memory serves me, of the accounts and documents relative to the Charity. I have subsequently received a copy of the Will and a variety of other evidence in proof of maladministration; and it is my intention shortly to place before my readers a detailed statement of the various transactions by which this benevolent charity has been diverted from the purposes contemplated by its pious founder. To such end, I shall with his permission, avail myself of the reverend Trustees proffered information on the subject—in order to the attainment of the most accurate judgment on a matter so important, first to the Public at large, and secondly to the character of those whose conduct has been impugned.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—Will you have the goodness through the medium of your valuable Portfolio to observe the difference that is made between a Brother's Widow in the great Trinity-House, and a Brother's Widow out of the House—the first having ten shillings per week, and the other only six shillings per week, although each have an equal claim upon the Charity.

MEM:—When it is observed that this difference amounts to the value of a bottle of good wine per week—or thirteen bottles a quarter, and that quarterly drinkings have been the order of the day until about a fortnight since—the matter will be satisfactorily accounted for.

J. A.

TO THOSE WHO RESIST THE PAYMENT OF ILLEGAL TOLLS.

FRIENDS.

The following communication received by the Committee of the Anti-Toll Association, from their Solicitor, is worthy your prompt attention. So far as I am concerned, as one of the Defendants, I have availed myself of the earliest opportunity, and have sworn to the necessary affidavit. Let the other Defendants, named by the Solicitor, comply with his requisition immediately.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE ANTI-TOLL COMMITTEE.

Mayor, &c. v. Toll Payers.

GENTLEMEN.

The Plaintiffs having determined to proceed in the whole of the Actions till we make a motion in Court, for staying proceedings in all but such of them as are necessary for determining the matter in dispute—I shall only enter an appearance to six or seven actions, and move the Court on the others, if the Plaintiffs declare in them, which however must be done upon an affidavit. Afterwards, if the Court should still think the few I shall appear to, too many actions to try the question in, we can move again to stay proceedings and consolidate them still further.

You must therefore direct the following Defendants to call at my office as soon as may be, to make the necessary affidavits to be ready in London, in case the Plaintiffs, by further proceedings in those actions, should render a motion necessary, viz.

James Acland	Thomas Bayman
James Beeton	John Bell
John Bickerton	William Bowes
John Bowling	Joseph Brocose
William Bubb	Christopher Carr
Richard Cobby	Matthew Cook
Charles Cussons	Robert Dobson
James Fawcett	Thomas Hague
Nathaniel Holmes	John Jackson
John Jackson	James Leslie
William Mellors	Richard Metcalfe
John Padley	Thomas Pickard
Thomas Smith	Henry Tomlinson
William Walker	John Walker
Robert Walker	Joseph Walker
Joseph Webster	Edward Wilkinson
William Williams	John Wilson

Possibly when the Plaintiffs find that we have only entered a few appearances, they may only proceed in those actions; if so, the affidavits will not be filed, but as we ought to have them in readiness, will you instruct the above defendants to call at my office as early as they conveniently can to be sworn.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your's, truly,

THOMAS THOMPSON.

HULL, December 25th, 1831.

BENNETT THE POSTMAN.

The complaints of injustice, oppression, partiality and dishonesty which I am daily receiving against this pest of Society, imperatively require that I take him in hand. Although I am not aware of any particular misconduct on his part in his character of Postman, I have thus designated him because he is more generally known as "that scamp, Bennett the Postman." He is collector of the "highway cess" and farms the "Clerical Poll tax," and in discharge of these duties his conduct has become unbearably iniquitous. I shall therefore prepare for publication a series of cases in support of these charges, and to which end I require such further evidence as those oppressed or cheated by him, may be disposed to favor me with—for the purpose of enabling me to drive this curse of the poor from the trusts & abuses, and the society he disgraces.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

DEAR SIR,—In your Portfolio of Saturday, the 24th instant I noticed a short letter with your signature, addressed to me, as Chairman of the Public Meeting, held on the site of the Old Gaol, at which a certain Declaration or Address to His Majesty was unanimously agreed on.—You correctly state that the Document in question was signed by thousands. You will doubtless recollect that a deputation was appointed to wait upon the King, in order to present the Address to His Majesty personally, and to proceed for the same purpose in the steam packet "Public Opinion" to London. You will remember too that that intended step was frustrated, by the Custom-House refusing to clear the steamer for want of a register. It was then a matter for consideration what other measure should be adopted in lieu thereof, and it was suggested to me that it would be proper to apply to Mr. Wrightson, one of the Members for this place, who, I was assured, was always ready to pay attention to any application that might be made to him relative to the affairs of Hull.

In consequence of this suggestion, I transmitted a Copy of the Address to Mr. Wrightson, asking if he would have the goodness to present the Original to the King on the first opportunity.—To this this application he promptly and politely replied in the following words: "I conceive it is my duty to present all Petitions to the House of Commons that are respectfully worded, without the least reference to my own individual opinions." But with regard to Addresses to the King, the practice is necessarily different. Not being a Privy Counsellor, I have no access to the King, unless on particular occasions, and for this reason it happens but rarely that Addresses to the King are presented by Members of the House of Commons. The late Address that was intrusted to my care, I conveyed to the Secretary of State, Lord Melbourne, for presentation to his Majesty. May I therefore beg to suggest that the best course would be to transmit the Address to Lord Melbourne, as by that means your object will be attained more regularly and quickly than by any other.

Being always ready to follow what I conceive to be good advice, I have, without further hesitation, transmitted the Address in question to Lord Melbourne, begging of his Lordship to present it to his Majesty, the earliest opportunity that

may occur, and to acquaint me with the result. In thus addressing the Home Secretary, I took the liberty of mentioning that I did it at the suggestion of Mr. Wrightson.

When I shall receive an answer from Lord Melbourne, (if any should come) I shall not fail to communicate it to you. In the interim, I remain

Dear Sir,

Your's sincerely,

J. JACKSON.

HULL, December 26th, 1831.

MR M.—I have not yet received an answer from the Rev. Richard Sykes, of Kirk-Ella, the Chairman of the Public Meeting subsequently held.

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR.—Sometime since, Henry Lee, Constable, and Keeper of the House of Correction, went to a House, demanded the keys of the drawers in the room, which (after his threatening to break them open) the wife gave, when he unlocked them, and took therefrom £14 10s. in 2 Purses, and a pair of stockings, without shewing any authority for such proceedings. He then took the wife into custody, charging her with having robbed a gentleman, the previous night, and conveyed her to the House of Correction. He then took the husband into custody, and lodged him in the same place. Soon after, the gentleman who had been robbed, went to identify the woman, but as soon as he saw her he declared that she was not one of them that had robbed him, nor to his belief, had he "ever seen her before" upon which she was discharged, and the husband was kept in custody eight days, without being taken before a Magistrate, or having any charge preferred against him. At the end of such period he employed an Attorney to apply to a Magistrate for an order to be brought up. When brought before W. W. Bolton Esq. (the then Mayor) he asked what charge there was against him? Lee said none; when the Mayor ordered him to be liberated, upon which the man said that Lee had some property of his, and desired that the Mayor would order it to be given up which he did, and Lee gave him the 2 purses, and stockings, with, as he expected the money taken in the purses from the drawers—but immediately after leaving the Mansion House, he examined them, and to his surprise found that the whole of the money was taken out; he then went back, and told Lee of it, but he said that he had nothing to do with money concerns.

The man afterwards had a petition drawn up, and sent it to the Magistrates, at their next Bench, but the money not being returned, another was sent to the Recorder at the Sessions—of which the following is a Copy.

"To the Worshipful the Mayor and Aldermen of Kingston-upon-Hull.

"The humble petition of ————— of Kingston-upon-Hull, aforesaid."

SHEWETH, That your Petitioner hath several years last past, taken out a licence, and carried on the business of a Hawker, but declined taking one out this year, and has been selling the remaining part of his stock at different markets.

"That on the 5th March last, in the morning, Henry Lee, the Keeper of the House of Correction, came to your Petitioner's House, demanded the keys of his drawers, took therefrom eleven sovereigns and an half, and 3 one pound notes, without any warrant (amounting together to £14 10s.) which he had received at different markets for his goods. That he then also took your Petitioner into custody, kept him in the House of Correction 8 days without taking him before a Magistrate, when he then was obliged to employ an Attorney to get ordered up, when no one appeared against him, and consequently His Worship the Mayor ordered him to be discharged, and Mr. Lee delivered to him the purses, from which upon examination, it was found that the money was taken out: and although divers applications have been made to him for it, he still holds it from your Petitioner, which has greatly injured, and entirely prevented him from purchasing more articles, and distressed him and his family very much.

"Your Petitioner, therefore humbly prays that your Worships will be pleased to order Mr. Lee to return him the £14 10s., which he so unjustly took and still holds from him. And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray, &c."

Notwithstanding all this, no money came, and Lee going to the assizes at York as a witness against a prisoner, (who very probably was not so bad as himself) the Petitioner went to an attorney there and desired he would send for Lee, which he did, but not mentioned his business with him, and when he came he acknowledged he had the money, but would not give it up, and the attorney threatened to commence an action in Trover to compel it, when Lee replied "he might do so as soon as he liked, for he had that money to defend the action with, and the man had no money to take the cause to the assizes." So Lee still keeps the money in defiance both of Law and Justice.

I am, Sir, &c.

MEM.—This Lee is the father of the Surgeon who refused to assist in restoring an insensible man who had fallen from the second floor of Messrs. Terry's warehouse, and whose heartlessness is screened by the Editors of the Rockingham and Advertiser. But this is only one of several causes I have and can prove against this man, who, be it remembered, is next to Codd, chief favourite, or the worshipful Corporators—of those who have so long lived in repute in Hull—as another of their friends equivocally records of them! What a set they are altogether! J. A.

THE Dull Portfolio;

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES ACLAND.

"Bonis nocet quisquis pepercerit malis."—CICERO.
HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY JAMES ACLAND, SOLE PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR, NO. 38, QUEEN-STREET, HULL.

Vol. I.—No. 21. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1831.

Twopence.

TO MR. JOHN JACKSON, BOWLALLEY-LANE.

DEAR SIR,

At the Public Meeting of the People of Hull, held on the site of the Old Goal, now some weeks since, a certain declaration to His Majesty was unanimously resolved upon. You were the Chairman at that Meeting, and as the proceedings were of my suggestion I trust I may be permitted to enquire, whether the document in question (which was signed by thousands) has been duly forwarded by you to His Majesty— if so, by what means, and, if otherwise, why.

I beg to subscribe myself,

Dear Sir, Your's truly,

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE REV. RICHARD SYKES, WEST-ELLA.

SIR,

At the Public Meeting of the People of Hull, convened by the Mayor some weeks since, and held at the Olympic Circus, a certain Petition to His Majesty was, by a great majority, resolved upon. You were the Chairman at that Meeting, and as the Petition so agreed to, was proposed by me, I deem it my duty to enquire whether you have forwarded it to His Majesty—if so, by what means, and, if otherwise, why.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES ACLAND.

ERRATUM. That which in London is called the Work-house, in Bristol is called the Hospital, and here the Charity-Hall. In the first page of last Tuesday's Extra number I have used the Bristol term in the place of that to which the Hull people are more accustomed.

J. A.

THE DULL PACKET AND HUMBUG MERCURY

of last Tuesday, manifests that impotency of intellect and malevolence of purpose, which generally characterise the agents of despots, and the tools of evil intentioned men. I have heard that a bad excuse is better than no excuse, and I suppose it will be contended by the sapient scribe of that intellectual Newspaper that a lame reply is better than no answer. I am of opinion however, that a bad excuse is no excuse, conceiving it not less easily demonstrable than that a stupid Editor is no Solomon. So also I hold it to be unanswerable, that a hobbling reply to an accusatory attack partakes rather of the character of a confession than of an answer, and in such point of view I regard the pitiful production of the fellow "wot" writes the Packet.

I told him it was unmanly to attack me at the cowardly advantage which an anonymous writer must ever possess over one who subscribes his name to his productions. I asked him to avow himself. Aye, Skakespeare's right:—

"You may call spirits from the vasty deep—but will they come when you do call for them?"

What attempt at an answer does this logician make? He says he is no more a coward, in courting concealment, than is the Editor of the *Times*! What has the *Times* to do in the matter? My call is upon the scribbler of the Packet—who, liking my thrust but little, endeavors to shield himself behind the Colossus of the Metropolitan Press. But, waving this objection to his paltry equivocation, it is equally contemptible for its argument, as for its meanness. Only last week, a wretch charged with murder at the Sussex Assizes pleaded in his defence that he ought not to be convicted because there was once a murderer who escaped hanging. Is the cowardly assassin of the Packet to escape popular condemnation by a similarly absurd plea? If Johnson be a fool, non sequitur that Jones is a paragon of wisdom.

Again! The "little unknown" is pleased to question the accuracy of my assertion in last Saturday's Port-

folio that I have lost about £200. by my opposition to the Ferry Monopoly. And how does he justify his suspicion? By the assertion that when I first set foot in Hull I borrowed a sovereign! What an offence! He might as easily, and as truly, have asserted that I borrowed fifty, without asking the consent of the involuntary lender. Indeed I am somewhat surprised that he has not told a big lie whilst he was about it. The cost of courage and of conscience would have been no more, and the effect produced much greater. There is no disgrace in borrowing honestly. There is much more disgrace in lending dishonestly—as my opponent lends himself to the Corporate patrons of his learned disquisitions. I hope I shall never be ashamed of any obligations circumstances may compel me to contract; and I can tell this bombastic accuser of mine, that I should prefer borrowing a shilling from a pawnbroker, on a shirt purchased and paid for, to receiving a bribe at the hands of a *Coddite*, from the purse of the poor and oppressed burgesses. Now, one word as to the imputation of falsehood with reference to my sacrifice of £200 in cash. The calculator of the Packet reckons without his host, in assuming that one who had no money four months since, cannot have earned and sacrificed £200 in that period. The regular sale of the *Portfolio* is *Two thousand five hundred*—a sale exceeding that of the whole of the Hull Newspaper Press! The profits of the *Portfolio* are, at the least, double those of the *Humbug Mercury*—and why? The former is the servant of the PUBLIC; the latter the hireling of the *Coddites*. The public pay their pence freely—cordially; the *Coddites* their pounds with a mournful sigh at the necessity for such curtailment of the fair proportions of future guttlings at the expence of others. Let the “little unknown” calculate, first my expences, and next my receipts (if he knows any thing of printing this may be easily done) and he will arrive at the conclusion that the assertion he has ventured to doubt, may possibly be a correct one.

The anonymous scribe is indignant—exceedingly indignant, at my suspicion that he is bribed to endeavor “to make the worse appear the better reason.” Yet he must be aware that there are more ways of bribery than one. If A. would bribe B.—does A. go to B. and say “I have come to bribe you—there is the money for which I would have you sell yourself?” Oh, no! there are less offensive methods of dealing, between evil spirits. But this Editorial ass denies the imputed bribery—and in the very same paragraph falsifies himself by the declaration, that he always charges the Town-Clerk of the Corporators for the insertion of his *Coddism*. They are always advertisements—and, of course, always paid for—and, assuredly, out of the Town’s purse—that is, the purse of the Burgesses! What a fool this fellow must be—unless indeed there be more of knavery in his composition—and, even then, he would be but a bungler at his business, for he overreaches himself, which a knave of ordinary discretion

would be most careful to avoid. The monkey forgets his tail in the vain fancy that his coat, waistcoat, hat and spectacles may pass him off, in society, as a rational biped.

The high-priest of Mercury repeats his absurd declaration, that the Aldermen of Hull have lived in *repute* for many years. This is very equivocal language, if it be not negative commendation; for men sometimes live for many years in *evil repute*—and then end their days on a drop or a gibbet. Is it such repute of which this equivocating scribler writes? If not, why does he not more particularly specify the gradations of the repute to which our *Coddites* are collectively, or severally entitled? To be sure he does draw a line across the Aldermanic body, penning off four of the precious flock, and appealing to his readers in favor of the repute of the whole, on the strength and quality of the sample exhibited. But the sample is not an honest one, being unfairly taken and ill calculated to give a correct estimate of the value of the Corporate lump. The names given by their friend of the Packet, are those of “Mr. Bolton (which I suppose to mean Alderman Leonard Bolton) Mr. Moxon, Mr. Hall and Mr. Coulson.” This friendly particularization is most injurious—because, if I were not extremely cautious to avoid unnecessary personalities I could here descend to them without provoking the censure of even the most Coddish of their worshippers. My opinion of them, as Corporators, is, that they deserve transportation quite as much as the majority of the poor wretches who are expatriated for the offence of obtaining money under pretences. I think that, as Corporators, their conduct has been as bad as it could be; that they are dishonest Trustees, lawless magistrates, tyrannical Aldermen—and, as I think, so I write. But I will not tackle them as individuals unless they compel me to do so. I have stated over and over again, that a roguish body may be composed of amiable and honestish people—who consent to that, as members of the body, which they would be ashamed to do personally and individually. If therefore the injudicious and besotted Editor of the Packet could demonstrate the honesty and amiability of the gentlemen who constitute the Corporate Government of this Borough, he would not thereby disprove my assertion that the Mayor and Aldermen have perpetrated as direct frauds against those of whose funds they are the Trustees, as ever sharper did against his unsuspecting prey.

If however, Mr. Goddard should, in his next publication, intrude on his readers a complete list of the Corporators, who, he says, have lived in *repute* for many years, I fear I might have great difficulty in resisting such invitation to the establishment of the position, that such repute has been, with a great majority of the said Corporators, of a very questionable nature.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

Hull, Dec. 21st 1831.

MR. EDITOR.—As the labourers in the employ of Messrs. R. Terry and Sons, were busily engaged in landing and stowing away goods, one of them named Edward Hall, (a poor man with a family of five children,) while drawing a four wheeled cart, very unfortunately slipped down the hatch, and fell from the 2nd story to the ground. He was taken up apparently dead, but on being removed to the nearest Public House, was found not so seriously injured as had been feared, but as Surgical aid was immediately required, Mr. Lee, Surgeon of Bishop-lane, being the nearest to the spot, was called in. Will you believe it Sir, this humane son of the humane chief-constable of our Town, positively refused his professional assistance until guaranteed the amount of his charges! Now Mr. Editor this man, as he would fain be considered, refused to “waste his time” in alleviating the sufferings of a fellow creature! The comrades of the poor sufferer, told Lee his name and circumstances, and begged him just to look at his head, or to open a vein in his arm, but this unworthy member of the benevolent profession refused to do any thing towards the recovery of the insensible patient—who was subsequently conveyed by his fellow laborers to the Infirmary, where his master has daily visited him, and where human life is not made a matter of mere speculation, as it had been by the inhuman being, in deprecation of whose heartless conduct I have penned this communication.

HUMANITAS.

MEMO.—The accused may command my publication of his defence to this charge of gross misconduct. Unfeeling as I know his father to be, and as I shall shortly prove him, I will not assume the guilt of the son, on the notorious bad character of his parent—nor refuse him the means of justice to the extent of my opportunity. But let him not deceive himself; if he cannot disprove the above statement of facts, he is utterly unworthy of the public support, and a scandal to the profession he disgraces. J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR.—As a proof that your exertions are not wholly unavailing, I send you what may be considered as one of its first fruits, viz. a published account of the receipts and payments of the Corporation of Beverley. When the Corporation of Hull will be induced to do as much, God only knows! In the interim, your motto must be “NIL DESPERANDUM!”—and provided you continue to deserve it, no doubt sooner or later, you will meet with your reward.

PROTEUS.

P. S. You will not fail to observe that the dinners have been discontinued by an order very lately issued.

MEMO.—I thank “Proteus” for his communication, and congratulate the Freemen of Beverley on this first step towards the reform of the existing abuses in their Corporate Government. The printed account is now exhibited in the window of my Office of Publication, for the information of the Coddite Aldermen of Hull. They may thus learn what is required at their hands by the Burgesses, for whom they are only Trustees—and which, sooner or later they must either grant, or, on compulsion render. I cannot allow this opportunity to escape me of acknowledging the wide disparity between the Corporators of this Town, and those of Beverley. The one now publishes annual accounts of its receipts and disbursements; the other refuses to do so! The one feasts, at its own expense; the other at that of the poor and abused burgesses! Nor can I omit the observation that the law expenses of the Corporators of Beverley for a whole year appear to be under £10. This merits the imitation of our Hull magistrates, even at the risk of driving their Town Clerk to the resignation of the office which would then have ceased to be more than reasonably profitable.

J. A.

THE DOCK CORPORATORS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR.—You direct the most of your attention to the doings of the Corporation of Mayor and Burgesses, as if they were sinners above all Men. I tell you Nay—and you omit the transactions of the other public bodies of the Town. Why are the sins of the Dock Company left unnoticed?—for no set has been more exorbitant than this, when they could get an opportunity, of which there are abundant proofs.

What authority have they to stop the approaches to the Town when they please, and as long as they please, that the public must wait their pleasure to pass (sometimes one quarter of an hour) be their business urgent as it may, or if it rain, blow, or snow? What care they? Yet all this is done on their own presumption, for they did not dare to ask Parliament to grant them such power. No, they knew if they applied there for such power, proper and sufficient bridges would have been demanded and ordered, so that the business of the town should not suffer for their sole gain. Moreover the question would have been asked how they had used the power which had been previously granted to them—or what necessity there can be that they should continue to demand and charge double Dock dues on all Foreign Ships that come here, and which the Foreigner is obliged to pay them, although by the Act of “Reciprocity” he is reimbursed at the Custom House out of the Taxes collected there. No doubt this is felt to be a grievance at the Treasury, and is considered equal to giving them a large pension per annum for nothing—and in fact it is so—when it ought to be known that the Interest of the money which their presumption and ignorance wasted, is equal to the above pension per annum, over what was necessary in making the last small ill-shaped Dock that “Jack” built. It cost sixty Thousand Pounds more than it ought to have cost, or might have been done for, had they taken proper methods or the best advice about making it. Government gave them the most of the Land for making all the Docks, and on which so many shops and warehouses have been built, and which bring them some Thousands per annum. Government also gave them large sums of money into the bargain, together with the power of charging all ships and vessels Dock dues, even if they do not go into the Dock, or make any use whatever of them, but discharge their cargo on the Humber, or in the open Harbour—and also other privileges which are often a hindrance to the prosperity of the Town, but they do not abate any thing on that account! If you insert this, I will shortly offer you another paper.

Your's &c.

MATTER-OF-FACT.

MEMO.—I shall look for the second letter of this correspondent with anxiety, for I know his statement to be facts—and there are nothing so effective as facts wherewith to deal out our body-blows against Corporate wrong doers. J. A.

What did an old gentleman of the name of Bunney mean, the other day, when, paying the Trinity House pensioners their increased pittance, he expressed his regret that such increase had not been made four months since, as he feared that fellow Acland would fancy he had compelled them to raise the pension! What could he mean? Does he expect there is one in Hull so completely idiotic, as to imagine the Trinity House gormandizers have voluntarily done their duty? If he does—I pity his weakness, and shrewdly guess that his second childishness has overtaken him sometimes. J. A.

THE TOWN AND COUNTY OF THE TOWN OF KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.

(Continued from page 163.)

CHARITY HALL.

This institution was established under the authority of an act passed in the ninth and tenth years of William the Third, for erecting workhouses and houses of correction in the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull; it is under the care of the Mayor and Aldermen, for the time being, and twenty-four persons, chosen by the six wards of the Town, in the manner directed by the act, who are thereby constituted a Corporation, by the name of the Governor, Deputy Governor, Guardians, and Assistants of the poor of the said Town, with power to purchase ground for erecting the necessary buildings for the above purposes, and to levy rates for the maintenance of the said poor.

The act contains also a clause, whereby it is enacted that all charitable gifts, donations or dispositions, that should thereafter be given, devised, or disposed of, to, or for the use of the said Town, or any precinct thereof should be paid to, and enjoyed by the said Corporation, to and for the uses of the said Town.

The Corporation having in the year 1695, obtained a grant from the Mayor and Burgesses of Hull, of a Messuage with other buildings adjoining in Whitefriar-gate, called the Cloth Hall, erected on the scite thereof the present structure, which has since passed by the name of Charity Hall, and is used as a workhouse, or house of industry for the Town of Hull.

As the institution thus established and conducted, did not appear to us to fall within the scope of our present enquiry, we did not proceed with the examination into the amount or application of the funds raised under the act for the support of it; but in respect to the benefactions given to the Corporation, by individuals, having special trusts annexed to them, or as to any property which the Corporation may have acquired from similar sources, and now held in trust for the general use, and benefit of the poor, we have deemed it proper to annex such particulars as the wards or memorials of the Corporation may supply.

They appear to be as follows:

DUNCALF'S BENEFACTION.

Edmund Duncalf, by will dated 9th June, 1713, bequeathed to the Corporation for employing the poor of the Town of Hull (constituted by act of Parliament) his house and garden, with the appurtenances in the Postern Gate, with a proviso that the Governors and Guardians of the said Corporation, out of the rents thereof should yearly pay £3. to such clergyman as they should appoint, to expound the catechism to the boys and girls of that house, (meaning the workhouse) each Lord's-day, and instruct them in the grounds and principles of the Christian Protestant Religion.

The premises demised by the will are held, by Mr. George Jackson, under a lease from the Governor and Guardians of the workhouse for twenty-one years, from the 6th of April, 1811; at the yearly rent of £28. being the full value at the time the lease was granted.

The tenements have been erected by the lessee, on the scite of the ancient messuage, under the covenants of his lease, by which the value of the property has been very considerably increased.

The sum of three pounds, charged by the will to be paid to a clergyman for instructing the children of the house in their catechism, has been increased by the Corporation to £10. a year which sum is now paid to the reader of High Church, who attends weekly on Sundays at the Charity Hall for the performance of the duty required.

About 150 children of both sexes are maintained in the house, who are also taught reading, writing, and accounts by a master employed by the Governors, and paid out of the general funds of the institution.

ROBSON'S BENEFACTIONS.

Ebenezer Robson, by his will dated 17th of July, 1714, gave and bequeathed his messuage or dwelling-house in the Broad-entry in Scale-lane, in Kingston-upon-Hull, after the decease of Elizabeth Hewerdine, widow, to the use of the poor of the new Corporation, called the Charity Hall in the said Town, and to the successors of the poor of the new Corporation, for ever. He also gave for the use of the poor of the said new Corporation, the sum of £40. and the residue of his goods, after certain bequests therein mentioned; and he nominated and appointed the Governor, Deputy Governor, and Treasurer, also executors of his will, to and for the use of the poor of the said new Corporation.

The messuage given by the will, and situate as therein mentioned, occupied while standing a scite extending 15ft. 6in. on the north and south sides, 27ft. 7in. on the west side, and 21ft. 7in. on the east, and abutted on the north on a messuage or tenement, belonging to the trustees of Crawle's Hospital.

The premises are now in the occupation of Thomas Frost, esquire, under a demise of ninety-nine years from the 5th of April, 1782, at an annual ground rent of £4.

The lease was granted to Mr. Frost, on the condition of his taking down the old building, which was in a very dilapidated state, and erecting others on the spot. This condition is stated to have been complied with by the lessee, and the property, as we have been informed has been greatly improved.

There are no entries to be found in the books of the Corporators relating to the further legacy of £40, or to the residue of the testator's estate, bequeathed by will to the use of the poor, nor have we been able to trace what became of these funds; but as no special trusts appear to have been annexed, to any part of the property bequeathed, it is probable that the personal funds were applied to the general purposes of the charity.

TOWER WALLIS'S BENEFACTION.

Alderman Tower Wallis, by will, dated 10th of February, 1719, devised to the new Corporation, enacted for the employment and maintenance of the poor within the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull, and to their successors, for ever, his messuage, then divided into several tenements, with the appurtenances. (the garden and garden-house) and way and passage to and from the same, always excepted, situate and being in Finkle Street, then in the occupation of Benjamin Bell, and others, upon condition, that the rents, issues, and profits, thereof should be applied to the use of the poor, according to the intent and meaning of the act of Parliament for erecting the said Corporation, and in default of such application, he devised his premises to his right heirs for ever.

The premises consist of a messuage or dwelling-house, with out-buildings and yard belonging thereto, on the west side of Finkle-street, extending from north to south 31 feet, and in depth from east to west, 52 feet, now in the occupation of Mary Westerdale, spinster, under an agreement with the Governors, to hold the same for the term of 10 years, from Michaelmas 1817, at the annual rent of £15. which appears to be the full value.

(To be continued.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

RESPECTED SIR,

In your Portfolio No. 19, appeared an ill spelt, and badly composed letter, written by J. Sleightholme. Your publishing the letter, in its pristine form, was a rebuke which, had I been the author, would have made me dislike myself for years; and your remarks at the bottom of it would have given me an everlasting blush. Sleightholme's letter is now before me, and so multiplied are its incongruities, that even a sparing exposure of them would occupy all the pages of a week's Portfolio. However, I remark that, after the author enumerates several particulars, which, were they true, would be facts, he says, "you may insert it with all safety, for it is a fact which I can easily prove." To say nothing of the substitution of fact for facts, and of every other connected blunder, most of Sleightholme's facts are factless.

He intimates, that the cause of his expulsion from the ministry was, that "Hull Circuit had more preachers than it could maintain." Had Sleightholme's conduct been blameless, the emergencies of Hull Circuit would not have deprived him of his induction. Certain charges were deposed against him, which, for his sake, I will not now name; and, as he had been fruitlessly chided, for the defaults which formed some of those charges, his "unfeeling brethren," so called, thought him unfit for the ministry, and of course refused him a station.

At our Conference, held more than half a year ago, Sleightholme, for quarrelling with his colleague, became Circuitless; and his "unfeeling brethren of Hull Circuit," pitying him, and hoping that his future conduct

would be better than his past, took him into their "ship," to prevent his being lost "between wind and water." From his entering their vessel, they fostered and admonished him, but he became so troublesome to some of his mess-mates, that he was necessarily unsbipped, on the second of this month; and, if one may judge, Sir, from your remarks, at the bottom of his letter, he has no reasonable prospect of being shipped on board the "Public Opinion."

I am that Mr. F. who "must have his name engraved on brass, and dash about Hull Streets with a fine fashionable cloak, lined with scarlet." Pshaw! Pshaw! Sleightholme's vision is morbid. My cloak is lined with green!!! Had the weather not been stormy, my cloak might have tripped to "Holderness," to have made its own reply; but it chooses to remain with its master, to screen him from "wind and weather." Precious Cloak! I wish Sleightholme had one like thee.

S. says, "I have told my brethren, that if they will neither find me a station, nor keep me in no shape, that their unchristian conduct would provoke me to expose them from the press; they said they hoped I would not do that, for it would only make confusion." This statement is false. We informed him, that, in consequence of his misdemeanor, and want of talent, he could not remain in the ministry; but that, if he behaved well, we would; next quarter day, endeavor to obtain him some pecuniary aid. He replied, "It was kind of Hull Circuit to take me, when I was left without a Circuit, and I thank you for engaging to endeavour to do something for me next quarter; but I am resolved, that, if I be left without a station, I will try my talents," by exposing the Editor's conduct to the world." Then a member of the meeting answered, "you had better not, &c." but another answered, "let him do as he thinks proper." Instead of threatening to expose us, he thanked us for our kindness, and threatened to expose the Editor's conduct only! And instead of our wishing him not to expose us, merely one wished him to try his talents in writing about the Editor; and even that one did not give his advice, because he thought the Editor would suffer from Sleightholme's writing, but confusion would be the consequence. Sleightholme may banish all hopes of reinstatement. His ignorant and false letter, is not much felt, nor his threats feared. If he assail me again, I fear I shall be constrained to uncloak myself, and fire upon him in good earnest. I wish him to be at peace, while he remains unhurt; but if he will not, he may expect to receive "a broadside between wind and water, when many a butts-end will be knocked in, and much damag sustaind."

I remain your green-lined-cloaked correspondent,

J. F.

Public Opinion, December 16, 1831.

MEM:—"Somewhat too much of this"—Shakspeare has written before me. In mercy to poor S.—and to my readers, I have terminated the correspondence, so far as its non-publication by me may be said to do so.

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

Hull, Dec. 10th. 1831.

Sir,—The Advertiser of the 2nd instant, says, Mr. Terry was *misinformed*, as to the question between the Toll-payers and the Corporation, and then says that Messrs. Casson and Penrose would have gone to trial, but that the Corporation, to get rid of the trial, offered to take the lowest toll which Messrs. Casson and Penrose had ever paid and defray their law-expences. This offer was acceded to and there the tolls have rested until now. I will not say that Mr. Terry was not misinformed, but I ask who did misinform him? Of whom did he enquire? Did he enquire of his brother Aldermen, or of the Town-Clerk, or of the Town-records? Who misinformed the worthy Alderman? Cannot an Alderman in 1831, get to know what his brother Aldermen did in 1816? What would have been said if you, Sir, had made an incorrect statement of this kind? Would the Aldermen have said you were misinformed—or that you paid no respect to truth?

Some of the Trinity-House corporators are reported to have said that they will buy no more of Mr. Leonard, because he has not made a profound secret of Mr. W. Bolton's shuffling off the payment of his debt, for so many years. Has it come to this pass, that if a corporator is in debt, his creditor must not name it, lest he and his brother corporators, making common cause, should conspire to injure him, wherever they may have any influence? This certainly seems to be the *generous*, the *gentlemanly* way in which these high-minded Boltons carry themselves towards the people.

Mr. C. Bolton wantonly and capriciously violated Mr. Jackson's property, and when this law-breaking Alderman found that Mr. J. was not satisfied, and that he dared to name the outrage, he did—what did this *conscientious* Alderman do?—why he dragged Mr. Jackson to York—not once only, but *twice* to convince him, forsooth, by adding injury to injury, that no injury had been done! What driving is here! does Mr. W. W. Bolton mean to drag his quondam friend Mr. Leonard to York, for having dared to name his debt, and if once dragging will not pay his debt, will he repeat the experiment? Or, did his brother Christopher's performance at York, in Co. with "John Walker, the tax-man" convince him that a Court of Justice, was not a place either for him or his brother to figure in? Did this performance convince him that however anxious he and brother Christopher may be to dance in "John Walker the tax-man's" leading-strings, the Judge would not join in the chorus, for he said "this is a case that cannot be further proceeded in" and so stopt brother Christopher's *fiddling* without more ado.

For what object are the Corporators made? Are they made for their own benefit, or for the benefit of the people? If they are made for the good of the people, how is it that they and the people are so often quarreling and at law, throwing away money among greedy attorneys.

Your correspondent G. F. says that Mr. W. Bolton, the town's-husband has £400 a year salary, and about £100 more in fees, and that Mr. Draper the late Town's-husband had only £150 a year. If this be correct Mr. Draper, who held the situation many years, was much underpaid, or the Alderman's son is much overpaid. Let Mr. C. Bolton explain this; let him say why his son has more than three times the salary, which his predecessor, in the same situation had and let this; *disinterested* Alderman show further, that there are not respectable individuals in Hull, who would be glad of the situation, at the old salary of £150, by which £350 yearly would be saved to the Town's funds. Is this a proof that these Boltons have no personal, no private interest in the town's funds? Four or five hundred a year is a very pretty thing for a man, who, if he were discharged to-morrow, would most likely find some difficulty to make one hundred a year. No wonder these men talk so violently in favor of things as they are, and speak so harshly of that fellow Acland; no wonder at all. Let Mr. C. Bolton say why his son is to have four or five hundred a year from funds, a part of which is wrung from the hand-earnings of toll-payers—many of whom can scarcely get bread. Let this *sagacious* Alderman resolve this.

I am, Sir, Your humble Servant,

A TOLL-PAYER.

MEM:—These queries are very pointed, but they need not the solution of the Boltons. The Corporate rule is "to fleece the people." To the discharge of this beneficial duty, they devote much of their time and consideration. What surprises me, is, not that the off-shoots of the Bolton Upas have three or four times the value of their services,—but that they are not overpaid to a much more enormous extent. Why is this? Will the Bolton Aldermen tell me that that would be a robbery on the town's purse? Why, so is the present over-payment. They are dishonest trustees who waste any portion of the funds entrusted to them—whether it be three hundred or three thousand a year. However, the time is coming when this and similar impositions shall be made to recoil on the heads of those who now carry themselves so loftily, that it is almost treason to presume that they may be rogues, although well-dressed, and "worshipful." J. A.

The Council of the Political Union, have resolved to call a General Meeting of the Members on Monday evening next for the consideration of the new Reform Bill. The Council will meet on the 2nd of Jan., and on every alternate Monday from that date and their proceedings will be public to the members. General Meetings of the latter will also take place fortnightly from Monday next. I have felt great pleasure in participating in the more desirable arrangements. J. A.

AN EXTRA PORTFOLIO

will be published on Tuesday next—for the opening of the Barton Ferry, has, for the last three months, tied my hands more than I could have wished, and compelled my postponement of many subjects for observation, until a more leisure period. On leaving the Paddle-box, I must resume the Pen of "Public Opinion." Thus the Corporate Monopolists will be debarr'd the gratification of even a temporary triumph. J. A.

HULL AND BARTON FERRY.

The Old Victory is unfit to run without expensive repairs: I have therefore returned her to Gainsborough.

The British Queen is not to be had—that is, by me.

Under these circumstances, and there not being another Steam Packet calculated for this ferry in a season of but little business, my opposition to the Lessees of the Corporators should be advantageously continued until the ensuing spring—when I doubt not being enabled to establish a permanent means of conveyance, superior in every respect to that of the Monopolists.

However great this disappointment may be to others—it is more so to me. For several weeks I have kept up the opposition despite the opinion and recommendation of my best friends. I would have done so still, if practicable: because I have felt the contest to be one of principle and I have been most unwilling to throw my friends on the paltry accommodation and yet more paltry feelings of the really pitiful instruments of the Corporate Monopolists.

The Lessees have conducted themselves throughout the business in a manner calculated to excite as well the hostility as the contempt of those whom they have in a variety of ways insulted and outraged. It is utterly improbable that Messrs. Walkden and Co. can ever regain the respect they formerly enjoyed. Availing themselves of my opposition to sneak out of a responsibility of £800. per annum, as the rental of the Ferry, they have nevertheless acted towards me, and all who were driven by their bad conduct to support me, with a rancour and bitterness, as ungentlemanly, as impolitic. Aware that their pretension to the monopoly was altogether without legal foundation, they have sought to drive me from the competition in which I had embarked by meanly prosecuting my passengers for trespassing on a public thoroughfare, created by public subscription and maintained at parochial cost. In a word they have forfeited all claim to public support and as soon as the new Packet, now about to be built, can be got in readiness I will shew them the result of their misconduct in the triumphant overthrow of their Monopoly and the termination of their imposition. The receipt of the Spring, Summer, and Autumn will enable me to run throughout the Winter without involving myself in the ruinous losses which would be consequent on a warfare without provisions—such as that in which I embarked—which I have continued for fourteen weeks—but from which I withdraw in order to the completion of the necessary arrangements for an early and vigorous campaign three or four months hence. J. A.

I am curious to learn the reason the worthies of the Trinity House went without their last Quarterly dinner—which should have taken place, I think, on Saturday week. What an event! Had that fellow Acland any concern in the matter?

On what authority does a Timber merchant and Alderman of Hull presume to sell wine without a licence—retailing it to the Corporation, and to his private friends, to the injury of the respectable wine merchants, and to the detriment of the revenue? Such was also the custom of a late Alderman—a practice by no means in accordance with the duties of one appointed for the enforcement of the laws, the detection of fraud, and the punishment of the fraudulent. J. A.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. R. B. shall have insertion on Saturday next. J. A.
J. N's favor did not come to hand until its matter was anticipated by me in the article published in this number on the subject of his letter. J. A.

PHILETUS is received and shall have early attention; my reply to his enquiry, to be effective, should be well considered. J. A.

The reply to Popplewell by W. F. has come to hand. J. A.

A COPY OF THE CHARTER GRANTED BY KING CHARLES THE SECOND TO THE TOWN OF HULL, DATED THIRD OF DECEMBER. ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY ONE.

(Concluded from page 191.)

AND FURTHERMORE, the aforesaid King Edward the First granted all Tolls, Profits, and Commodities whatsoever to the Town or Market belonging, happening or chancing to have, hold or enjoy the aforesaid Town or Borough, Land, Tenements, Liberties, Franchises, Immunities, Fairs, Markets and Heriotments, and all other Premises by these Presents granted (except before excepted) to the aforesaid Mayor and Burgesses, and to their Successors, in Fee Farm, for ever rendering theretofore to us our Heirs and Successors, the ancient Rent or Farm of Three Score and Ten Pounds of lawful Money of England, at the Receipt of our Exchequer, at Westminster, at the Feast of St. Michael the Arch Angel, and Easter in every Year, to be paid by equal proportions, and also rendering and paying therefore yearly to us our Heirs and Successors, at the Receipt of our Exchange at Westminster, or to the Hands of our Bailiffs or receivers thereof for the time being, all, and all manner of such other like sort and the like Rents, Payments and Sums of Money and Demands whatsoever, how many and how great, to us and our Progenitors, before this for the premises have been answered or paid, or of right ought, or are accustomed to be paid or rendered, wherefore we will, and firmly enjoying do require for us, that the aforesaid Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid, and their Successors, may have, hold, use and enjoy, all Liberties, Authorities, Jurisdictions, Franchises and Acquittances aforesaid, according to the tenor and effect of these our Letters Patent, without the hinderance of us our Heirs or Successors, the Justices, Sheriffs, or other Bailiffs or Ministers of us our Heirs and Successors whatsoever, we being unwilling that the same Mayor and Burgesses, and the Men of the Town or Borough aforesaid, or any one, or any of the Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid, by reason of the premises, or any of them, by us, or by our Heirs the Justices, Sheriffs, Escheators, or other Bailiffs or Ministers of us our Heirs or Successors thereof, be letted, molested, vexed or grieved, or to be letted, molested, vexed or grieved, or in any thing disturbed.

We willing, and by these Presents commanding and requiring as well our Treasurer, Chancellor, and Barons of our Exchequer at Westminster, other and

our Justices, and of our Heirs and Successors, or our Attorney and Solicitor General for the time, and every of them, and all other our Officers and Ministers whatsoever, that neither they nor any of them, any Writ or Summons *de quo Warranto*, or any other our Writ or Writs, or Proceesses whatsoever against the Mayor and Burgesses, or the Men or Inhabitants of the Town or Borough aforesaid, or any of them, or any, for any Causes, Things, Matters, Offences Claims and Usurpations, or any of them, by them, or any of them due, claimed, attempted, used, had or usurped before the Day of the making of these Presents, shall prosecute, or they shall prosecute or continue, or any of them shall make, or cause to be prosecuted or continued, or any of them shall make or cause.

We willing also that the same Mayor and Burgesses, and the Men of that Town or Borough, or any of them, by any, or any of the Justices, Officers, or Ministers aforesaid, of, or for any Due, Usage, Claim, or abuse of any of the Liberties, Franchises, or Jurisdictions within the Town or Borough aforesaid, the Suburbs and Precincts of the same, before the Day of the making of these our Letters Patent shall not in the least be molested or hindered, or to them or any of them to answer shall be compelled.

And whereas we are credibly informed that within the aforesaid Town and Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull there is, and was had in all the time of which the memory of man is not contrary, hath been had such a custom, *to wit*, that every Merchant and other whatsoever, who within the aforesaid Water of Humber, and in the Port of the aforesaid Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull, shall come with Merchandises or Goods in any Ship or Bark, or any other Vessel whatsoever, for the cause of merchandizing the same Merchandise of Goods whatsoever, they shall unlade, and lay upon the Land in the Port of the same Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull aforesaid, in certain Stairs, Cranes, and other Places within the said Town or Borough, and not otherwise, or in any other Place, except such like Goods, Wares and Merchandises, which any of the Citizens or Inhabitants of the City of York. We willing the aforesaid ancient custom in the same Town or Borough, henceforth for ever in the same Town or Borough to be continued as anciently hath been accustomed, as well for the supportation of the great burthen and expences of the same Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid, and their Successors, in or about the reparation, defence, and preservation of the Port aforesaid, and the Banks, Jetties, and Waterworks of the same Port, as for the bettering and relieving of the same Town or Borough, and of our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion we have given, granted and confirmed, and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors we do give, grant, and confirm to the aforesaid Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull aforesaid, and their Successors, that every Merchant

or other whosoever, who through the Water of Humber in the aforesaid Port of the said Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull, with Merchandise or Goods in any Ship, Bark, or other Vessel whatsoever, for the cause of merchandizing hereafter shall come, the same Goods and Merchandise they shall unlade, and lay upon the Land in the Port of the same Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull, in the Stairs, Cranes, and other Places within the same Town or Borough heretofore used and accustomed, and not otherwise, nor in any other Place in the like manner and form as in the same Town or Borough before this lawfully hath been used and accustomed; and that the aforesaid Mayor and Burgesses of the said Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull, and their Successors for ever hereafter, shall have, enjoy and receive, all and singular such like sort and the like Fees, Rewards, Profits, Duties, sums of Monies, and Emoluments whatsoever, for the unlading or laying on Land of all and singular such like Goods and Merchandises in the aforesaid Port of the same Town and Borough, such as, and the which the Burgesses of the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull, or the Burgesses of the Commonality of the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull, or the Mayor and Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull, or any of them or their Predecessors, by whatsoever names they have been called from the times of which the memory of Man is not to the contrary before this may be lawfully had or enjoyed, or of right they ought to have, hold or enjoy. We will also and by these Presents grant to the aforesaid Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough of Kingston-upon-Hull aforesaid, that they have, and shall have these our Letters Patent under our Great Seal of England in due manner made and sealed without Fine or Fee, great or small, Hanifer or elsewhere, to our use for the same any manner of way rendered, paid or done, although express mention of the true yearly value, or of the certainty of these Premises, or any of them, or any other Gifts or Grants by us or of any of our Progenitors or Predecessors, to the aforesaid Mayor and Burgesses of the Town or Borough aforesaid, before these times made in these Presents is not named, or any Statute, Act, Ordinance, Proviso, Proclamation, or Restriction to the contrary thereof before this had, made, set forth, ordained or provided, or any other thing, cause or matter whatsoever in anywise notwithstanding.

In Testimony of which Thing we have caused these our Letters to be made Patent. Witness ourselves at Westminster the third Day of December, in the thirteenth Year of our Reigne.

By the Writ of a Privy Seal.

HAWARD.

For a fine of Ten Pounds.

Printed and Published by JAMES ACLAND, sole Proprietor and Editor, No. 38. Queen-Street, Hull.

Ball Portfolio;

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES ACLAND.

"Bonis nocet quisquis pepercit malis."—CICERO.

HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY JAMES ACLAND, NO. 38, QUEEN-STREET, RULI.

THIRD EXTRA.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1831.

One Penny.

TO THE EDITORS OF "THE ADVERTISER" AND THE ROCKINGHAM.

SIRS:—In your respective papers of Friday, and Saturday, I observe you report the accident at Messrs. Terry's wharf. You state that the poor man fell from the second floor of the warehouse, and was carried to the infirmary, much bruised, and with his left collar bone broken. Were not your reporters aware—were not you aware, that Surgeon Lee was called in, and refused his assistance unless first guaranteed his bill, in possibility? How is it you make no mention of this disgraceful fact? Is it because the Surgeon is the son of the constabulary busy-body? Or why is it? Many imagine that your silence is more or less attributable to your dread of giving offence to the Corporate patrons of the father of this humane professor of the healing art. For my part, I think you will be puzzled satisfactorily to explain your singular omission of a circumstance which so strongly demanded Editorial castigation. Had it been one of your relatives who was subjected to such inhuman treatment, would either of you have screened the delinquent, as you have! Oh, no!—but the sufferer was a poor man—and unknown to you—and hence your apathy in this disgraceful business.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE PARISHIONERS OF THE HOLY TRINITY.

MY FRIENDS,—You may perchance have seen in the "Packet" of the two last weeks, a declaration on the part of *the* *the* Corporate heads of our town have lived in repute amongst you for many years. I have taken leave to correct this imperfect statement, by contending that that repute must have been an evil repute—and I beg to appeal to you for the confirmation of my opinion. To this end I would recal your remembrance of your own opinion of those *reputable* Corporators, as recorded in your Parish books. Did you not, some eight or nine months since, five or six hundred of you being then assembled in the body of your Parish

Church—a hired advocate being then the defender of their alleged infallibility—his abettor on that occasion being a tax-gatherer—their supporters being but five or six individuals of the description generally known as *Church mice*—did you not there and then pass a resolution of strong censure on the reputable set who insulted you in the persons of your Churchwardens, by causing their arrest for money safely deposited by the Governor and Guardians of the Poor, to await the issue of an impending motion in a Court of Law? And can there be a doubt of the sort of repute in which the men thus censured have lived among you? Can it be questioned that they have uniformly opposed themselves to the interests of the Borough and the feelings of its inhabitants? Would they not rather insult you than defer a dinner—arresting your representatives and forestalling the decision of the Judges rather than postpone a gazing bout or diminish the quantity of strong drink thereafter. Verily they are in evil repute—for they are few indeed who can give them a commendatory character, save those who might do so from motives as questionable as the testimony they might be influenced or interested to offer.

The affairs of your Parish will shortly possess an interest with me, which will require my more frequent correspondence with you. You have been hitherto outwitted—but the Act of Parliament will not again serve the turn of those who care but little for such documents, unless to answer their selfish and temporary purposes. Easter is now advancing upon us with rapid strides. Hole-and-corner work will then be at an end. The jobbing system shall then be destroyed. You will cease to pay taxes for the gratification of Orthodox fancies, and the gain of Orthodox contractors. And, as parishioners, you will then resume your proper weight and influence and control, in and over the affairs which so immediately, and so essentially affect you.

JAMES ACLAND.

My expenses in opening the Barton Ferry Monopoly have at length their termination. I have therefore to request those who have claims upon me, to favor me with their accounts forthwith.

LISTER'S HOSPITAL.

I understand the Trustees of this Charity, let a close of land (6A. OR. 20P.) to Wm. Clifford, and another (3A. 2R. 23P.) to a person of the name of Stamford. The rental paid by these individuals, is of course that of the value of the land at the time it was leased or let. But I am informed that the clay had been previously sold off the land in question; that such clay is now worth about a hundred and fifty pounds an acre; that the value of the land has been consequently, and by such sale of the clay, decreased to the annual extent of probably a pound an acre; and that there appears to have been no account of a credit to the charity for the amount produced by the sale of the clay off these two closes of land; Can Mr. William West, the brickmaker, throw any light on this matter—or can Alderman Egginton? If they, or either of them can so further the ends of Justice, I will assume their disposition to aid me in vindicating the cause of the friendless, and shall be most happy to receive any communication explanatory of the case thus generally noticed.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

Sculcoates, Nov. 11th, 1831.

Sir,—I beg you to accept my thanks for your unwearied and steady exposure of the villainous Tories and Boroughmongers in the Town and neighbourhood. I would fain hope the time is not very remote, when all the public robbers will be brought to that justice their crimes deserve. What do you think Sir, of the Church Parsons? Will you believe it Mr. Acland, you have aroused the fury of that man of God, (or I think rather of Belzebub) Mr. Baskett, of the Charter House. He has told some of the country tenants, he could shoot you, with clean hands and a clear conscience. Holy man this, Mr. Acland. A fine minister of religion this! I will say no more, but to assure you it's a fact. And I would advise you to cut them in every way you possibly can, for they are a set of canting hypocrites!

I remain, Sir,

Your's truly,

A REAL REFORMER.

MEM:—This may be true, or it may be otherwise. There were bad parsons in Bristol who would have been very glad to have met the Editor of the *Bristolian* in a bye-lane, on a dark night. They would have been provided with the necessary means for ridding the world, or rather the rogues of the world, of such a "fellow" as myself. My life has been often threatened—yet I live to expose scoundrels and hypocrites and such vermin of humanity—and most assuredly I will continue to live, as long as I can, for so benevolent a purpose. Die when, or how I may, I desire no better epitaph than "Here lies one who was useful to his fellow creatures—the friend of the poor, and the enemy of their oppressors." Will such an epitaph ennoble the burial places of blood thirsty parsons or Corporate impostors?

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

Sir,—As you are trying the legality (I should say illegality) of some of our Corporate Tolls, I would wish to know their authority for forcing from the poor Fishermen a large portion of their hard-earned cargo, in Tolls of Fish, Oysters, Cockles, &c. &c. which they are continually doing. Passing through Silver Street the latter part of last week, I think Saturday, I met a cart with large letters formed into that once swaggering word, "CORPORATION"—piled up with Oysters. Now Mr. Editor, I enquire, do they eat them at their Feast, or do they make Sauce of them, and then change that Sauce into Arrogance?

The very servant that filled the Cart, was too great for it, but hired another man. Hoping you will look into this,

I remain,

Your's, &c.

BULL.

MEM:—What an unreasonable man is this Mister Bull. Does he not know that they who have no money, deserve to have their oysters, taken from them—by the trustees of the Burgesses of Hull? How else are those gentlemen to evince their superiority, if they are to be prevented taking their allowance from the saleable commodities of the poor fishermen and others?

STONEFERRY CHARITY

My original notice of the abuses of this Charity was grounded on an insufficient information. Mr. Bromby replied to me in the columns of one of the newspapers, offering an inspection, if my memory serves me, of the accounts and documents relative to the Charity. I have subsequently received a copy of the Will and a variety of other evidence in proof of maladministration; and it is my intention shortly to place before my readers a detailed statement of the various transactions by which this benevolent charity has been diverted from the purposes contemplated by its pious founder. To such end, I shall with his permission, avail myself of the reverend Trustees proffered information on the subject—in order to the attainment of the most accurate judgment on a matter so important, first to the Public at large, and secondly to the character of those whose conduct has been impugned.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

Sir,—Will you have the goodness through the medium of your valuable Portfolio to observe the difference that is made between a Brother's Widow in the great Trinity-House, and a Brother's Widow out of the House—the first having ten shillings per week, and the other only six shillings per week, although each have an equal claim upon the Charity.

MEM:—When it is observed that this difference amounts to the value of a bottle of good wine per week—or thirteen bottles a quarter, and that quarterly drinking have been the order of the day until about a fortnight since—the matter will be satisfactorily accounted for.

J. A.

TO THOSE WHO RESIST THE PAYMENT OF
ILLEGAL TOLLS.

FRIENDS,

The following communication received by the Committee of the Anti-Toll Association, from their Solicitor, is worthy your prompt attention. So far as I am concerned, as one of the Defendants, I have availed myself of the earliest opportunity, and have sworn to the necessary affidavit. Let the other Defendants, named by the Solicitor, comply with his requisition immediately.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE ANTI-TOLL COMMITTEE.

Mayor, &c. v. Toll Payers.

GENTLEMEN,

The Plaintiffs having determined to proceed in the whole of the Actions till we make a motion in Court, for staying proceedings in all but such of them as are necessary for determining the matter in dispute—I shall only enter an appearance to six or seven actions, and move the Court on the others, if the Plaintiffs declare in them, which however must be done upon an affidavit. Afterwards, if the Court should still think the few I shall appear to, too many actions to try the question in, we can move again to stay proceedings and consolidate them still further.

You must therefore direct the following Defendants to call at my office as soon as may be, to make the necessary affidavits to be ready in London, in case the Plaintiffs, by further proceedings in those actions, should render a motion necessary, viz.

James Acland	Thomas Barnum
James Beeton	John Bell
John Bickerton	William Bowes
John Bowling	Joseph Brocose
William Bnbb	Christopher Carr
Richard Cobby	Matthew Cook
Charles Cussons	Robert Dobson
James Fawcett	Thomas Hague
Nathaniel Holmes	John Jackson
John Jackson	James Leslie
William Mellors	Richard Metcalfe
John Padley	Thomas Pickard
Thomas Smith	Henry Tomlinson
William Walker	John Walker
Robert Walker	Joseph Walker
Joseph Webster	Edward Wilkinson
William Williams	John Wilson

Possibly when the Plaintiffs find that we have only entered a few appearances, they may only proceed in those actions; if so, the affidavits will not be filed, but as we ought to have them in readiness, will you instruct the above defendants to call at my office as early as they conveniently can to be sworn.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your's, truly,

THOMAS THOMPSON.

HULL, December 25th, 1831.

BENNETT THE POSTMAN.

The complaints of injustice, oppression, partiality and dishonesty which I am daily receiving against this pest of Society, imperatively require that I take him in hand. Although I am not aware of any particular misconduct on his part in his character of Postman, I have thus designated him because he is more generally known as "that scamp, Bennett the Postman." He is collector of the "highway cess" and farms the "Clerical Poll tax," and in discharge of these duties his conduct has become unbearably iniquitous. I shall therefore prepare for publication a series of cases in support of these charges, and to which end I require such further evidence as those oppressed or cheated by him, may be disposed to favor me with—for the purpose of enabling me to drive this curse of the poor from the trusts & abuses, and the society he disgraces.

JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

DEAR SIR,—In your Portfolio of Saturday, the 24th instant I noticed a short letter with your signature, addressed to me, as Chairman of the Public Meeting, held on the site of the Old Gaol, at which a certain Declaration or Address to His Majesty was unanimously agreed on.—You correctly state that the Document in question was signed by thousands. You will doubtless recollect that a deputation was appointed to wait upon the King, in order to present the Address to His Majesty personally, and to proceed for the same purpose in the steam packet "Public Opinion" to London. You will remember too that that intended step was frustrated, by the Custom-House refusing to clear the steamer for want of a register. It was then a matter for consideration what other measure should be adopted in lieu thereof, and it was suggested to me that it would be proper to apply to Mr. Wightson, one of the Members for this place, who, I was assured, was always ready to pay attention to any application that might be made to him relative to the affairs of Hull.

In consequence of this suggestion, I transmitted a Copy of the Address to Mr. Wightson, asking if he would have the goodness to present the Original to the King on the first opportunity.—To this this application he promptly and politely replied in the following words, "I conceive it is my duty to present all Petitions to the House of Commons that are respectfully worded, without the least reference to my own individual opinions. But with regard to Addresses to the King, the practice is necessarily different. Not being a Privy Counsellor, I have no access to the King, unless on particular occasions, and for this reason it happens but rarely that Addresses to the King are presented by Members of the House of Commons. The late Address that was intrusted to my care, I conveyed to the Secretary of State, Lord Melbourne, for presentation to his Majesty. May I therefore beg to suggest, that the best course would be to transmit the Address to Lord Melbourne, as by that means your object will be attained more regularly and quickly than by any other."

Being always ready to follow what I conceive to be good advice, I have, without further hesitation, transmitted the Address in question to Lord Melbourne, begging of his Lordship to present it to his Majesty, the earliest opportunity that

may occur, and to acquaint me with the result. In thus addressing the Home Secretary, I took the liberty of mentioning that I did it at the suggestion of Mr. Wrightson.

When I shall receive an answer from Lord Melbourne, (if any should come) I shall not fail to communicate it to you. In the interim, I remain

Dear Sir,

Your's sincerely,

J. JACKSON.

HULL, December 26th, 1831.

MEM:—I have not yet received an answer from the Rev. Richard Sykes, of Kirk-Ella, the Chairman of the Public Meeting subsequently held.

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR.—Sometime since, Henry Lee, Constable, and Keeper of the House of Correction, went to a House, demanded the keys of the drawers in the room, which (after his threatening to break them open) the wife gave, when he unlocked them, and took therefrom £14 10s. in 2 Purses, and a pair of stockings, without shewing any authority for such proceedings. He then took the wife into custody, charging her with having robbed a gentleman, the previous night, and conveyed her to the House of Correction. He then took the husband into custody, and lodged him in the same place. Soon after, the gentleman who had been robbed, went to identify the woman, but as soon as he saw her he declared that she was not one of them that had robbed him, nor to his belief, had he "ever seen her before" upon which she was discharged, and the husband was kept in custody eight days, without being taken before a Magistrate, or having any charge preferred against him. At the end of such period he employed an Attorney to apply to a Magistrate for an order to be brought up. When brought before W. W. Bolton Esq. (the then Mayor) he asked what charge there was against him? Lee said none; when the Mayor ordered him to be liberated; upon which the man said that Lee had some property of his, and desired that the Mayor would order it to be given up which he did, and Lee gave him the 2 purses, and stockings, with, as he expected the money taken in the purses from the drawers—but immediately after leaving the Mansion House, he examined them, and to his surprise found that the whole of the money was taken out; he then went back, and told Lee of it, but he said that he had nothing to do with money concerns.

The man afterwards had a petition drawn up, and sent it to the Magistrates, at their next Bench, but the money not being returned, another was sent to the Recorder at the Sessions, of which the following is a copy:

"To the Worshipful the Mayor and Aldermen of Kingston-upon-Hull, the humble petition of of Kingston-upon-Hull, aforesaid.

SHOWN, MY ATTENTIVE LISTENING HEARD OF

"That your Petitioner hath several years last past, taken out a licence, and carried on the business of a Hawker, but declined taking one out this year, and has been selling the remaining part of his stock at different markets.

"That on the 5th March last, in the morning, Henry Lee, the Keeper of the House of Correction, came to your Petitioner's House, demanded the keys of his drawers, took therefrom eleven sovereigns and an half, and 3 one pound notes, without any warrant (amounting together to £14 10s.) which he had received at different markets for his goods. That he then also took your Petitioner into custody, kept him in the House of Correction 8 days without taking him before a Magistrate, when he then was obliged to employ an Attorney to get ordered up, when no one appeared against him, and consequently His Worship the Mayor ordered him to be discharged, and Mr. Lee, delivered to him the purses, from which upon examination, it was found that the money was taken out; and although divers applications have been made to him for it, he still holds it from your Petitioner, which has greatly injured, and entirely prevented him from purchasing more articles, and distressed him and his family very much.

"Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays that your Worships will be pleased to order Mr. Lee to return him the £14 10s., which he so unjustly took and still holds from him. And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray, &c."

Notwithstanding all this, no money came, and Lee going to the assizes at York as a witness against a prisoner, (who very probably was not so bad as himself) the Petitioner went to an attorney there and desired he would send for Lee, which he did, but not mentioned his business with him, and when he came he acknowledged he had the money, but would not give it up, and the attorney threatened to commence an action in Trover to compel it, when Lee replied "he might do so as soon as he liked, for he had that money to defend the action with, and the man had no money to take the cause to the assizes." So Lee still keeps the money in defiance both of Law and Justice.

I am, Sir, &c.

MEM:—This Lee is the father of the Surgeon who refused to assist in restoring an insensible man who had fallen from the second floor of Messrs. Terry's warehouse, and whose heartlessness is screened by the Editors of the Rockingham and Advertiser. But this is only one of several causes I have, and can prove against this man, who, be it remembered, is next to Ceild, chief favourite, or the worshipful Corporators—of those who have so long lived in repute in Hull—as another of their friends equivocally records of them! What a set they are altogether! J. A.

THE

Hull Portfolio;

OR, MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES ACLAND.

"Bonis nocet quisquis pepercerit malis."—CICERO.
HE INJURES THE GOOD WHO SPARES THE BAD.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY JAMES ACLAND, SOLE PROPRIETOR AND
EDITOR, NO. 38, QUEEN-STREET, HULL.

Vol. I.—No. 22.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1831.

Twopence.

GEORDIE CODD.

The "Governor and Guardians of the Poor" have turned out the Corporate Codd, and have elected a staunch reformer, in the person of Mr. John Thorney, as their Solicitor. It was high time that the creature of an unreformed and corrupt body should be removed from this place of honor and confidence, in our more popular because more liberal and just Corporation. I congratulate Mr. Thorney on his election. It gives him a rank in his profession which is equally honorable and advantageous. He will not eat or drink from the trust-money of his clients, as his discharged predecessor does in his other office, but he will be the respected associate of honest and honorable men, the participator in their liberal and enlightened views, the recipient of a salary which has not been wrung from the poor by extortion, and which is not contingent on his sacrifice of principle, his sufferance of rogues, or his fellowship with fools.

Such is now the proud superiority of Mr. John Thorney over George Codd!

The "Packet" states that the late Solicitor *resigned*. Aye!—as the well-bred dog walks down stairs, when he sees preparations on foot for kicking him down! Resigned, indeed! Pray when did he resign Mister *We-we*? Did not his masters resolve that they would not tolerate a servant of the Corporation of Guttlers, in their employ? Did not those masters send such their determination to this George Codd? Did not the said Codd write in reply thereto a pathetic appeal in order to shew the hardship of being turned off after his father and himself had done the Governors and Guardians of the poor the honor of receiving wages at their hands for so many years? If he resigned, wherefore the necessity of the vote declaring him unfit for the situation, by reason of his connection with the worshipful men who have lived in bad repute among their neighbours for so many years, and whose corruption is more pestilential in Hull, than is the Cholera Morbus, at Newcastle? Resigned indeed!—but it is the lying Packet which so states this matter, and I have to

apologise to my readers for the time wasted in its contradiction. The mark of the beast is on its brazen brow and advertisement of its character were needless.

JAMES ACLAND.

MORAL ASSASSINATION.

The Corporators and their Creatures are again at their dirty work. They have vainly attempted to secure impunity to themselves by bribing the lying "Packet" to blackguard and bully me. The bribe is not sufficient to cover the loss consequent on self-evident folly, and fairly presumptive roguery. The conspiracy is detected—the conspirators find no advantage resulting from their ill-concocted and unprincipled schemes—and fresh tactics are rendered necessary.

In the last "Packet," but one, the cowardly Editor, who dares not avow himself, promised the publication of an attack upon me, under the reverend signature of "Laicus," and which communication was to have appeared in his paper of last Tuesday.

In last Tuesday's "Packet" however, no such article—no! not even a line in reference to me or my proceedings—appeared. Nor was any apology made for the omission of that which had been, in distinct terms; promised.

How is this to be accounted for? By what extraordinary circumstance can the dastardly liar of the Corporate Gazette have been induced to falsify his pledge, when that pledge committed him to an additional act of editorial heartlessness? "'Tis strange—'tis passing strange"—Aye, but there are more things in Heaven and Earth than are dreamt of in the philosophy of those who but skim the surface of the deep and dirty waters of malevolence and vice.

In the night—in the dead of the night of Monday last—the night immediately preceding the day of the publication of the Packet—of that Packet which was pledged to an attack upon me—but which contained no such attack—in the dead of last Monday night there were distributed about the streets of Hull, and

delivered beneath the doors, and left on the steps, and dropped into the areas of houses, hundreds of printed papers without signature or printer's name, and comprising a series of the grossest attacks upon me, and most impudent falsehoods respecting me, which the black heart of villainy could devise, or the rankling gall of demoniac humanity prompt.

In this paper I am represented in direct terms, as a THIEF on six different occasions! *By whom?* By a being without a name—by one who dares not make such charge on his own responsibility—by one who would thus dastardly advance the interests of the Mayor and Aldermen of Hull! *With what object?* To prevent my exposure of Corporate Corruption, by destroying the confidence of the Reformers of Hull in my character, by breaking the ties of political and private friendship which I have the happiness to have formed, by holding me up as a criminal, by exciting detestation against me, and by, as it is therefore hoped, driving me from the community where I am respected, as a disgrace to humanity, and a pest to society!

I thank the Almighty that I am neither cowardly, nor pusillanimous, nor timid. I bless God that he has given me strength to bear this heavy burthen—that I have nerve sufficient to resist its baneful influence on my own mind—that it has not driven me from the course in which I am embarked, and to which I have devoted myself—that it has not frightened me into flight—that my reason has not forsaken me—that I am neither mad nor dead.

I am no hypocrite—but I think, and feel, and act as a man, and as a reasonable being; and I am grateful to my Maker that he has gifted me with a superiority over the agents and instruments of evil by whom I am beset, and tempted, and provoked. Strengthened too, as I proudly feel myself to be, by the kind and just support of my many respectable friends in Hull, who will not believe my anonymous and cowardly aspersers, I trust I shall be enabled to turn their malevolence to their own disadvantage, and to maintain my character, at all hazards, and to the discomfiture, mortification, and ruin of my remorseless enemies!

The following letters have been forwarded by me through the Post Office:—

7 Wellington-Street, Hull, Dec. 30, 1831.

MY LORD,

It may be some two years since your Lordship presided in the Guild-hall, in the City of Bristol, at my trial for libel, on prosecution of the Mayor and Aldermen of that place. On conviction, I was sentenced by the Court of King's Bench to two months imprisonment, in the Gaol for the county of Gloucester. Subsequently several other indictments were preferred against me, at the instance of the same prosecutors, for alleged libels published by me, in my paper, entitled "The Bristolian." This circumstance led to an arrangement whereby I escaped the consequences of such prosecutions by relinquishing my publication, and with it my political opposition to the Corporators of Bristol.

I am now settled in this Borough, and have for some months devoted myself to the promotion of a reformation in the existing abuses of this place. In pursuing this course, I have made many friends, and have excited the hostility of the few who have opposed my advocacy of the rights of the poor Burgesses and of the people generally. Some one of these my opponents, has made a most dastardly attack on my character, by the circulation of a printed bill, without an imprint, and from which I extract the subjoined paragraph.

"Soon afterwards he became a reporter to a London Newspaper, and while in that situation, was sent down to Hertford, to report the trial of Thurtell, on which occasion his penchant for dishonest practices was evinced by his impudently pocketing the Judge's Snuff-box! This circumstance is published in some book of anecdotes, under the title of 'The Height of Impudence.' It was effected in the following manner:—My Lord Judge's very handsome Snuff-box happening to be laid on the bench during the proceedings, Mr. Reporter, (gaining his Lordship's attention by feeling in his pockets with much bustle and apparent surprise,) turned, and with unprecedented assurance, thus addressed the learned Judge, 'My Lord, I am sorry to say I have left my my Snuff-box at home; will your Lordship allow me to take a pinch with you?' His Lordship condescendingly nodded assent, and the audacious dog after taking Snuff, pocketed the box."

I am sure your Lordship will do me the justice to favour me with an immediate communication on the question, whether or not this statement has any, and if any, what foundation in truth.

I beg to subscribe myself

Your Lordship's respectful Servant,

JAMES ACLAND.

Mr. Justice J. A. Park, &c. &c.

7, Wellington-street, Kingston-upon-Hull, 29th Dec. 1831

SIR,—In consequence of my Political opposition to the corrupt Corporation of this Borough, I have been subjected to a series of the most scurrilous attacks in printed hand-bills without signature or imprint, and which are calculated to do me much injury, if uncontradicted.

I extract the following paragraph from one of these dastardly and calumnious papers:—

"He has been twice tried at the Old Bailey for fraud; and on one occasion there were no less than ten indictments against him."

As a means of contradicting this lying statement, I have therefore to entreat you will immediately refer to the records in your possession, or otherwise obtain for me the information necessary to a decision upon the question.

"Whether I was even tried or ever indicted at the Old Bailey for fraud or any other offence, say within the last seventeen years, as I was about 15 when I left school, and my age is now 32."

My father will call upon you for your reply, when he will thankfully repay you any expence to which this my enquiry may have put you.

I am, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

JAMES ACLAND.

The answers to these letters shall be published immediately on their arrival, and meanwhile, I trust I shall be enabled to unkenneled the white-livered scoundrels who forge falsehoods in the concealment they dare not leave—lest they become scorned among men, and be avoided as things loathsome and lazar-like.

JAMES ACLAND.

BENNETT THE POSTMAN.

Cases against this scamp:—

1. Bennett is collector of the Highway Assessment, and the Church Assessment. In such capacity, he is bound to show the entry in the Cess-book to any person of whom he demands the rate, and who may desire to see it. Otherwise he might collect of those who are not assessed, or demand more than the assessment from those who are assessed, and in either case pocket the money, which I believe I shall be able to prove, has been done by this man very frequently, and to a very considerable amount.

When he has been questioned on the assessment, the fellow has repeatedly declared that he does not know who made the assessment—nor when it was made—nor how it was made. He also refuses to show his Cess-Book---and he has doubtless good reason for such refusal. He told Ward the shoemaker, in Myton-Gate, and Anderson the fishmonger, in the Shambles, that he was authorised to alter the assessment at his will, and to make fresh assessment, or pass by and forgive those who are assessed, at his pleasure. Who gives him this power? *It is illegal*—nor do I believe his assertion, on this or on any other point.

2. On the 23rd of this month, Bennett made a demand upon a house in Mary Square, Osbourne-street, which had been in the occupation of the then tenant but *two months*. The tenant refused to pay on the ground that he could not be in the Cess Book---the assessment, if made at all, having been made above six months back, and before he rented the house. Bennett declared over and over again that his name was in the Cess Book, and told him that if he did not pay his demand within ten days, a summons should be sent him. The man has not paid; nor will he. *Is not this an attempt to obtain money under false pretences?*

3. Early in this month Bennett applied to Mr. Johnson in the Pottery, the owner of a number of tenements for a composition assessment for the whole of them. (Who authorises this compounding?) The demand was for 11s. 6d. Mr. Johnson enquired "Has Mr. Graves paid you or his tenements?" "Oh, yes!" replied Bennett "he never refuses?" Mr. Johnson paid the demand. Mr. Graves had refused payment, and still refuses it? *Is not his obtaining money under false pretences?*

4. A similar demand was made upon Mr. Earle the tonemason. He asked "has Mr. Mercer paid you?" "Oh, yes," was the reply--whereupon the demand was complied with. When Mr. Earle met Mr. Mercer (Churchwarden of Holy Trinity,) he charged (Mr. M.) with sending Bennett to his house, because he had been made to pay. "I neither sent him to you, nor have I paid him myself" was Mr. Mercer's observation. *Is not his obtaining money under false pretences?*

JAMES ACLAND.

(To be continued.)

TO MR. GEORGE LEE, EDITOR OF THE
"ROCKINGHAM."

SIR. In your paper of a fortnight or three weeks since you refer to that paragraph in the King's speech, which, suggested a reform in the Municipal Police of the country. In such Editorial article you presume to think that his Majesty's Ministers merely contemplate the introduction of Peel's raw lobsters into the larger towns. Pray, Sir, may I ask on what authority you thus venture to limit the sense of his Majesty's most gracious intimation?

The particular points of a King's speech (when it has any point at all,) generally refer to some extraordinary cause---such for instance as the Cholera Morbus---or the Corporate Morbus. Now, the factious Toryism and gross incompetency of the Bristol Magistrates before the opening of Parliament, and the equally factious Toryism and gross incompetency of the Hull Magistrates, since that event, are matters of so great notoriety as to justify the supposition, that his Majesty would not have wasted his Royal breath on any components of the Municipal Police of the Kingdom of less magnitude than those self-same worshipful Magistrates.

Of course, Sir, it cannot be for a single moment imagined, that I can be so far in the secret as the *We-w* of the Rockingham---nor would I for the world presume on an equality in that respect, with so great a man as yourself---but, I trust I may, in all humility, submit to you the possibility of your having guessed wrong in this matter---unless, indeed, you are in the confidence of the Premier---which I cannot pretend to---being a simple radical, and taking rear-rank order in the Whig presence---save at Public Meetings when the Whigs foolishly sound "to battle" and declare "war" against Public Opinion!

Your humble coadjutor in good, and
fearless opponent in things evil,

JAMES ACLAND.

VOL. 2.

of the "Portfolio" will commence with the year 1832. The Index and Title-page to Vol. 1. will be forthwith published.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—Mr. Bull states in your last Portfolio, that he met a cart with cockles, oysters, &c., on Saturday week, with "CORPORATION" painted on the sides. Now, Sir, that cart has not been out in the street, nor had any fish of any description in it these last two months. He also asserts, that a person was wheeling it, and that the bellman was looking on.

W. WILKINSON, Bellman.

MEM.—If ding-dong be right, at least there is such a cart---for such purpose---and thus the case is proved, whether the said cart was used yesterday or yesterday two months.

J. A.

THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

TWENTY POUNDS REWARD.

WHEREAS there have been this week, circulated through the Hull Post-Office, and distributed under cover of night, a great number of hand-bills headed "Outline of a Character" and concluding with the question "What is the Public Opinion of such a Character?"—and which hand-bill is replete with the foulest lies, of, and concerning me, and to my great prejudice;

THIS IS THEREFORE TO GIVE NOTICE, that I will pay to the Person or Persons who may give me such information as shall enable me to detect the Author, Printer, or Publisher of the said false, calumnious, and dastardly attack, and that if he be not a principal Offender, I will hold him harmless of such proceedings, at law or otherwise, as I may deem it necessary to adopt.

JAMES ACLAND.

7, Wellington St. Hull, Dec. 30, 1831.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

West-Ella, Dec. 26, 1831.

SIR,—I have very little to say in reply to the letter which you addressed to me, and which I saw yesterday in the Portfolio. As the Chairman of the Public Meeting to which you allude, I was bound in justice to decide, that the Address which you moved, was carried by a very great majority: the fact was indisputable. As to what became of the Address—whether it was ever written on paper—or presented to the King, I am perfectly ignorant. I never heard any thing of it after I had dissolved the Meeting.

I am, Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

R. SYKES.

MEM:—A fair copy of the Address shall be forthwith forwarded to the Chairman for his official signature. I think it was the duty of the Chairman or of his Secretary at the Meeting Mr. Lawson Johnson, to have applied for the copy in question long since, in order to its being duly attested, as the result of the proceedings on the occasion. However "better late than never" and "better in this fashion than not at all."

J. A.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF HULL.

You gentle rulers of the town of Hull,
Accept my kind, my warm congratulation,
For of your *trust* you soon will give a full
And clear relation to the British nation.

The ministers (God bless them!) now require
To know how much you've charged for granting freedom,
And how expended; and, no doubt, desire,
If the accounts are waste, to prune and weed 'em.

You have not spent the funds in wine, flesh, fish,
Because the burgesses do never taste them;
And 'twould for Acland be a pretty dish,
If it were *prov'd* that you in this way waste 'em.

For his assertions—them I won't admit;
You pay, yourselves, (no doubt) for your rich dinners.

I know, that when as Justices you sit,
You send to prison poor and hungry sinners.

For begging, and for petty acts of theft,
Having of little crimes such detestation,
I'm sure you cannot be of grace so 'reft,
To rob by, *wholesale*, as a Corporation.

Did you not prosecute at last assize,
A needy fellow, who by chance had found
A piece of iron—('twas of no great size)
Lying upon the Corporation ground?

With such strict acts of justice on your side,
I'm sure the men are impudent and bold,
Who your official characters deride,
And say you rob the burgesses of gold.

Yes! yes! that saucy fellow, Acland's cry
Of "public robbers," now will be exploded;
And you'll stand forward in the public's eye,
Clear, unsuspected, and your deeds applauded.

And when the ministers your actions see,
They will exclaim, "this virtuous Corporation
Is what the law intended it should be,
The people's guardians, and their veneration.

See! what a sum in charities outlaid!
How little on themselves has been expended!
How great amount for buildings they have paid—
All for the use of burgesses intended!"

'Tis said you will amongst the freemen share
The property that you, for them, have saved.
And, really, it is only right and fair,
That they should wait and see how you've behaved—

Which the production of your account will show,
Then will that fellow, Acland, blush for shame,
When you his vile assertions overthrow,
And vindicate your worth and injured fame.

And when to church you go in state array,
Instead of candles, rotten eggs, and stones,
Respect and kindness will attend your way,
And plaudits will be heard instead of groans.

And coming back, no specials need attend,
To guard you from the rudeness of beholders;
For every man will be the *just men's* friend,
And bear you home in triumph on their shoulders. P. P.

MEM:—Fudge!!!

CORPORATE CONUNDRUMS.

Why is the late Solicitor to the Governor and Guardians of the Poor, like a smoaked herring?

D'y'e giv't up?

Because he's a FISH OUT OF WATER.

Why did Georgie Codd dream last Monday night
that the Charity Hall was in Lowgate, and that he was
in torment.

D'y'e giv't up?

Because he slept on a THORNEY pillow.

J. A.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE LORD VIS-
COUNT MELBOURNE, SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

My Lord,

Your requisition to the Sheriff of this Town and County, calling upon him to make return of (among other things) the number of persons admitted to their freedom in each year, from 1800, with the amount of fees on each admission, and *how appropriated*--has secured to your Lordship the grateful admiration of thousands of the oppressed and insulted Burgesses.

Directly interested as they are in the vast funds which of right belong to them, and of which funds their officers (the Mayor and Aldermen) are but trustees, they are kept in perfect ignorance, as well of their amount, as of their appropriation. Hence, they naturally and reasonably conclude, that there must be some sleight-of-hand work in the disposal and disbursement of the great income produced by the accumulation of centuries and the increased value of all descriptions of real property.

There is scarcely an individual in this populous town--save the Mayor and Aldermen, and their servants, relatives and dependants, who have ever derived a direct advantage from the great wealth of the Corporate Body. The large body of burgesses have been uniformly treated as nothing better than pretenders to the rights and to a participation in the property to which they are legally entitled. The funds of the Corporation are amply sufficient for providing for the necessities of its poorer members; yet these are permitted to pine in want, whilst their wealthy Trustees riot in extravagance! Dinners of the most expensive description, with wines the most costly, are provided in unjust and iniquitous profusion for some twenty individuals--out of the funds of thousands who need, and would be thankful for a loaf, but which loaf they would vainly beg at the hands of their heartless superiors.

Judge then my Lord, of the intense interest which your requisition to the Sheriff has excited. Hope and anticipation have succeeded to the listlessness of despair. The wronged Burgesses and the oppressed inhabitants of this Borough look to your Lordship and to your Lordship's honorable colleagues, in the glorious cause of National and Local Reform, for the speedy redress of their injuries, and for that Justice which, without Ministerial aid, would be too expensive for attainment by those who have no funds available to such purpose, but what are in the exclusive possession and use of worshipful Tories and Corporate despots.

Do not my Lord--do not I implore you, disappoint the sanguine expectations you have thus nobly created. Fulfil those expectations, and your Lordship's name will ever be associated by the people of Hull, with the pride of their forefathers, and their glory--the name of their patriotic townsman, Andrew Marvel!

I beg to subscribe myself

Your Lordship's respectful Servant,

Hull Dec. 30. 1831.

JAMES ACLAND.

CHARITIES OF THE TOWN AND COUNTY OF THE TOWN OF KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.

(Continued from page 172.)

LINDALL'S GIFT.

Mrs. Hannah Lindall, by her will bearing date 26th May, 1781, bequeathed to the governors, guardians and assistants to the poor of Kingston upon-Hull, the sum of £400 upon trust, to place out the same at interest, and to pay and dispose of the interest thereof, for, and toward the relief of such poor and necessitous persons, as they should think worthy objects of charity; and as should present themselves for charity at the courts to be holden from time to time by the governors, guardians, and assistants, (such persons not receiving relief from the poor rates in Kingston-upon-Hull, or residing in the Charity Hall,) without regard to the township or place to which such persons might belong, it being her intention that such interest should be given by them, to such fit and worthy objects as were in distress through sickness and infirmity, and could not with propriety be relieved out of the poor rates. The legacy has been placed at interest of 4½ per cent. in the hands of the Mayor and Burgesses of Hull, on the security of a bond, under the common seal of the Corporation dated 8th April 1791. The interest is regularly paid to the clerk of the workhouse, who distributes the amount on the Court days, which are holden at the Charity Hall once every two months, amongst poor persons, resident in the town of Hull, but having no legal settlement in the place, and who are not entitled therefore to receive parochial relief.

No separate or distinct account is kept of the distribution of the fund; but a considerable larger sum than the interest amounts to, is thus distributed every year among the poor persons of the above description. The governors, and guardians are also in possession of the following estates, which appear to have been purchased with funds given by individuals, the particulars whereof are imperfectly known--and respecting the trusts of which, if any indeed were annexed to the gifts, nothing of such is to be collected from such of the title deeds of the property as have been preserved.

The estates consist:--

1st. Of two closes in the parish of Preston, containing together 3A. 3R. 33P. purchased in 1707 with a sum of £70, appearing, by an entry in one of the minute books of the Corporation, to have been given by Mr. George Ellis, Lady Perrot, and Mr. William Mould, jointly. The land is let to a yearly tenant, at the annual rent of £12. 12s.

2nd. A farm at Sculcoates, comprising 7A. 1R. 3P. allotted on the inclosure of the parish in lieu of lands in the open fields purchased by the Corporation in 1711 for a sum of £53, of which £60 was a further donation from Mr. George Ellis during life.

This land is let to R. Gervissor, as yearly tenant at £23.

The corporation is also entitled to a rent charge of 20s. a year under the will of Mrs. Ann Watson, which is regularly received from the trustees of the Charities, founded by her, of which a separate report will be found under the head of General Charities for this County. An annual account of the expenditure, and receipts of the Corporation, is published by the governor and guardians, in which credit is given for the above rents and interest, as for rent of estates belonging to the workhouse, and interest on legacies received by the Corporation, but except in the two instances of Dimcali's and Lindall's benefactions, the amount has always been added to the general funds of the Charity, and applied therewith.

In the hall of the workhouse there is a table containing a very numerous list of benefactions to the charity; but the sums given are not stated, and excepting those which we have already mentioned, no memorials of them have been preserved. It is understood however that they were bestowed upon the Corporation, for the general purposes of the institution; and they seem to have been applied to such purposes, with the funds raised yearly.

HAWSON'S CHARITY FOR DISSENTERS.

William Hawson, by will, dated February 15, 1743, directed his executor to place £100 of his personal estate out at interest, and to pay the interest thereof unto the ministers of the Chapel in Dagger-lane, in Kingston-upon-Hull, during his life, and after his death to his successors for ever; and he also willed that his executors should place £20 out at interest, and dispose of that interest upon every new-year's day, amongst the poor people belonging to the said Chapel for ever, and he appointed Johannan Beilby and John Porter executors of his will. The will was proved by two executors, in the Exchequer Court of York, 5th April, 1744. By deed-roll, bearing date 27th August, 1793, executed by Michael Beilby, reciting the will of William Hawson, to the effect above set forth, and that the sum of £120 was vested in the said Michael Beilby, as the personal representative of Johannan Beilby the surviving executor named in the said will, the said Michael Beilby for the consideration therein mentioned, assigned the said sum of £120 unto Gardiner Eggington, and Joseph Eggington, and John Thompson, their executors, administrators and assigns, upon trust, to continue the same at interest in the hands of the said Gardiner Eggington, or place the same out, on such other security, as the trustees, or the survivors of them, or the heir of such survivor should think fit, and apply the interest thereof in the performance of the trusts mentioned in the will of the trustees. The legacy is at present in the hands of Mr. John Thompson, one of the parties named in the above deed. Interest was regularly paid at the rate of five per cent per annum to the end of the year 1816 to the trustee of the chapel intended by the will, the congregation of which consisted of Protestant Dissenters; £5 of the interest was paid to the Ministers of the chapel, and 20s. was distributed every New Year's day, by one of the trustees of the chapel amongst poor

persons of the congregation, regularly frequenting the service, and who attended in the vestry to receive the benediction; about 10 poor persons used to partake of the distribution. In 1817 the chapel was shut up, in consequence of some dispute between the trustees of it, and the congregation, and no application being made for the interest, on the part, either of the Minister or the poor, Mr. Thompson, suspended the payment of it. We were given to understand however, that all differences had been adjusted, and that the chapel was about to be re-opened.

The trustee of the charity was in daily expectation, at the time of this inquiry, in October 1822, of being again called upon for the interest, the payment of which he is ready to resume, or to add the arrears to the principal sum, or pay them to whomsoever he may be advised, is legally entitled to receive them. *(To be continued.)*

MEX:—No one can fairly charge me with the publication of self-laudatory articles. In general, I strike from the letters I insert in the Port Folio, all such extraneous matter as merely praises myself. For once I break my rule, and in the insertion of the following poetical communication, I find a cordial under the villanous attacks of the Corporate tools. Do all they may, they cannot deprive me of the prayers of the widows, and blessings of orphans. J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HULL PORTFOLIO.

How long the people of this town,
In vain for justice sought;
The rich, were to oppressors grown;
The poor, to ruin brought.

No friend was here, to plead the cause
Of orphan misery;
No generous heart, to sooth the woes
Of widow'd penury.

But now, we have a friend who will
The widow's wrongs make known;
Th' oppressor's name he'll publish stilt,
Till he his guilt shall own.

To thee, Portfolio, success!
Of truth, the advocate,
The widow and the fatherless
Shall ne'er thy name forget.

May blessings multiply around
Thy Editor, our friend;
While in the path of truth he's found,
His fame shall have no end.

TO MR. MITCHELL, PRINCIPAL CLERK TO MESSRS. MAISTERS, AND Co., WINCOLMLEE.

SIR,—I believe you were once Clerk to Alderman Leonard Bolton—then neither Alderman, nor Leonard, but Chamberlain of the Corporation of this Borough. They say that you had then the employment of making up the Corporate accounts, and that you have since declared that our prudent Magistrates keep two sets of accounts—one, honest, for private purposes—the other deceptive, for rogueish purposes.

At the present moment, when the Home Secretary has received certain accounts, this subject is amongst the first-rate importance, as it is of the highest consequence

the Burgesses and Inhabitants of the Town should know that the Home Secretary is not galled by our Corporate sharps.

I therefore beg the favour—or rather the justice of such further information on this point as you or any of your friends may possess.

Your obedient Servant,
JAMES ACLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ADVERTISER.

SIR.—Who told you that Codd had resigned as Solicitor to the Governor and Guardians of the poor? I tell you he was discarded. Was the paragraph in question paid for as an Advertisement? If so, you let out your columns for the publication of falsehood; if not, your publication of falsehood is gratuitous and careless. Perhaps you copied it from the Coddite Gazette; in such case you ought to have enquired into its truth before you inserted it—the more especially as you quoted it from so *Mercurial* an authority.

Yours' watchfully,
JAMES ACLAND.

Mr. Arthur Levett, Attorney at Law—of the firm of Codd and Levett—the said Codd being Town Clerk to the Corporators of Kingston-upon-Hull.

SIR.—You call yourself a lawyer—as also does your now notorious partner, Geordie Godd. You ought to know your duty—and, knowing your duty, you ought not to exceed it. When you do so, you act unprofessionally. What right then had you on Thursday morning to hunt me up for the purpose of asking me questions which could have no tendency or object but to induce me to commit myself? You produced sundry copies of my Portfolio—duly marked for prosecution. Without doubt my prosecution is determined upon, and if it be, then I am defendant in the intent of our employers. And you apply to the Defendant on Criminal prosecution—you a LAWYER, apply to the Defendant in the hope of leading him to criminate himself? Worthy agent of my Corporate prosecutors! go on, and you may in time become qualified for a humbugger—or a spy—or a Collector of Highway and Church assessments—or a Town Clerk.

Perhaps you thought to alarm me. Why, then look for me in your Court of Corporate Sessions, on Thursday next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon; for there will then be—and there await, with all imaginable patience the issue of such indictments as it may please the magnanimous magistrates of Kingston-upon-Hull, to prefer against

Him who fears them not.

JAMES ACLAND.

POLITICAL UNION.

MEM.—The following resolutions will shew the result the proceedings at the General Meeting, on Monday evening last...

RESOLVED.

1 That we consider the Reform Bill now in progress through the House of Commons; deserving the most earnest support of the country, as recognizing the great principle of the necessity of a radical change in a bad system of government; and whilst we express our hope, that His Majesty's ministers will not pause in their glorious career, until they have cleansed the Augean stable of National and Corporate corruption, we venture to anticipate great Local advantage from the judicious investigation now being pursued by the Home Secretary, into the abuses of our Civic and Borough Oligarchies:

1 That there be fortnightly general Meetings of the Union, in order to the increased diffusion of Political instruction among the working classes, and also for their better information as to what may be passing in the houses of legislature. Such meetings to be held on alternate Monday's, commencing with the present evening, at Mr. Montgomery's, Dagger-Lane.

3 That, suffering as all classes of His Majesty's subjects now are in consequence of the stagnation of almost every description of trade, by reason of the clouded state of our Political horizon, we indulge a reasonable expectation of returning prosperity, as the natural result of a satisfactory settlement of that great question, by the delay of which, the country has been so vexatiously agitated.

MARKET AND TOWN TOLLS.

MEM.—The following resolutions were unanimously agreed to the Public Meeting, on Wednesday last:

RESOLVED.

1. That the conduct of the Corporation of this Town in instituting 42 actions for the trial of the contested question relative to the legality of the Market and Town Tolls, when one two or three such actions would have equally enabled them to obtain a judicial decision on that point—is persecuting and oppressive, and calculated utterly to destroy the confidence of the people in those constituting their local Government.

2. That this meeting feel themselves called upon to deprecate the gross and deliberate insult offered to the Anti-Toll Association, and to the great body of the public, by George Codd, the Corporate Town Clerk, and Attorney, in his impertinent letter to Mr. Thomas Thompson, the Solicitor to the Association.

3. That as the period when the appearances to the several writs must be entered, is fast approaching, and as the funds of the Association are far from adequate to the heavy expence of defending so many actions, the public interests involved in the trial of the important question at issue, demand that an immediate appeal to that public be made.

4. That the able, independent and indefatigable exertions of Mr. Thomas Thompson the Solicitor, entitle him to the grateful acknowledgement of this meeting, and of all lovers of justice and advocates of the rights of the people.

5. That the best thanks of this meeting, are due, and are hereby respectfully proffered to Mr. James Pickard, the treasurer, and Mr. John Walker the secretary to the Association for the laborious and zealous services they have gratuitously rendered to the cause, from the first moment of an organised resistance to Corporate exaction and oppression.

6. That the grateful acknowledgments of this meeting, be given to Mr. Colley Bedford, for his kindness in taking the chair, and for his ability and impartiality in the conduct of this evening's proceedings.

I regret to state, that the Corporators are still vindictively pursuing those who think they ought not to pay illegal and extortionate demands—another individual having been yesterday served with a copy of a writ. Can the haters of iniquity refuse their assistance in this Holy War against injustice and oppression?

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—I notice in your Portfolio of Saturday last, what a Toll-payer says in his letter of the 10th inst. as regards our Town's Husband, in which I think he is not correct. The late Mr. Schofield, father to the present Mr. Lightfoot (Attorney) had £200 a year, and did then the duty of Francis Tadmán, who has had a salary, and bought in all the good meats, poultry, &c. and hired a cook for the day for the monthly dinner at perhaps 10s. 6d. each time. After his death Mr. Draker got the situation at £250 per annum. A resident man-cook was added to the establishment at the salary of £120 per annum, with perquisites. When Mr. D. died, Mr. C. Bolton tried hard to get his second son the appointment (then not at man's estate, being about 19 years of age) but finding this would not do, he nominated the present dear boy, then in London, clerk to a wine merchant, and got him elected. Then he set to work bow, and in what manner he should or could, increase his £250 a year salary to what it now is;—and this has been done by pruning from others so as to make it one way or other £500 a year. The last was taken away from the Collector of the Waterworks, £50 a year, giving it to this dear boy for no additional duty. Perhaps it may be said a greater piece of injustice was never done by a select committee in which the Boltons have always been managers, or something like it; for in the late Anthony Atkinson's time, when he was master or collector of the Waterworks' tolls he had £200 a year, and the collection then not half what it now is. At his death his Nephew got the situation, and was, (I suppose they say because the revenue was increasing) reduced to £170 per annum, with a promise of having it made £200 a year, but, after waiting 15 or 16 years, duty increasing, but not so his promised salary, he gave it up in disgust. They then chose another person, Mr. J. Osbourne, at a salary of £100 a year, giving part of the £75, say £50, to my dear boy for doing no additional duty. This Mr. O. found he could not alone get through the duties of the situation, and gave it up. It is now held by Mr. Staniland, assisted by Mr. Atkinson, at the same salary, but it is not to be supposed Mr. A. helps without pay.

Look at the inconsistency and injustice of their proceedings. Mr. Water-collector, now that his duty by the immense increase of the town water pipes laid, &c. and the revenue full £4000 per annum, has only £100 for collecting. In Ant. A's time, when the duty was not half, nor the collection half, he had £400 per annum. This cock who does not collect a revenue, but helps to spend one, has £120 per annum. This dear Town's Husband has more than doubled income, with a decrease of duty:—well may he keep his country and town house—and give champagne and its *et ceteras*!

Your's &c.

A REFORMER.

MEM:—This little piece of Corporate history would be very amusing, but for its iniquity. It is well the curtain should be at length withdrawn from before the trickery and humbug by which the poor people of Hull have been deluded, and the funds of the Burgesses wasted, or devoted to the infliction of wrong. The Boltons are the prime malefactors of the Corporators, and no wonder they grow rich, when such means as those above detailed have been resorted to for the gathering together the pelf of others, and its dishonorable misapplication to family purposes.

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

Hull, Dec. 25th, 1831.

SIR,—When Hull bank for savings was first established, a certain portion of the interest arising from its funds, was to be retained in the hands of the managers to pay the expences of the establishment, which sum has hitherto been found more than sufficient to defray the expences of the bank. After all expences were paid a considerable sum remained in the hands of the managers, which sum in common justice ought to have been

divided amongst the depositors in proportion to their deposits, and the time which they have had money in the bank. Although this was promised to the depositors when the bank was first established, yet this corporate body without consulting the people whose money they have to manage, have, with the surplus of money, established a free school for the children of the depositors. No matter how short the time they have been depositors, nor how limited their credit in the bank, they are entitled to the privileges of that school. Where is the justice of such a measure? Single men or women have no children to send to the school; neither have old people, whose children have arrived at maturity. Hence it follows under these circumstances that a great number of depositors must become subscribers towards the education of children whom they do not know, and to children whose parents are many of them in very good business, and are possessed of from £50 to £1000, and upwards, whilst a great many of the depositors are not worth £10. I have no doubt but it would be found if the banking books were examined that several people have made deposits since that school commenced. Such proceedings ought not to be allowed, and surely the above is a strong evidence of corporate corruption.

T. F.

MEM:—The recent decision of the Lord Chancellor on this subject, ought to secure the depositors in the Hull Savings' Bank from the partial and illegal outlay of their surplus fund. Many weeks since, I exposed the injustice and trickery of this school scheme—and sooner or later—by argument or by law, it must be put down, as an inequitable expenditure of assets not the exclusive property of those for whose exclusive benefit they have been applied.

J. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTFOLIO.

SIR,—At the half-yearly meeting, on Monday the 19th inst. of the Anti-Mill, in looking over the expences &c. I saw an Item for Tolls for 6 months, of 3 guineas, which is at the rate of 6 guineas a year. Now Sir, there are about 1400 members, who pay this 6 guineas, or 1512 pence for Tolls—so that the Corporation cram their dirty hands into every poor man's flour-bag, or demand above a penny before any member of the Anti-Mill Association shall dare to taste his home made loaf. Pray Sir, what are Vampires?

I am, Sir, Yours,

AN ANTI-TOLL-MAN,

But no connection with Anth'y the Toll-man.

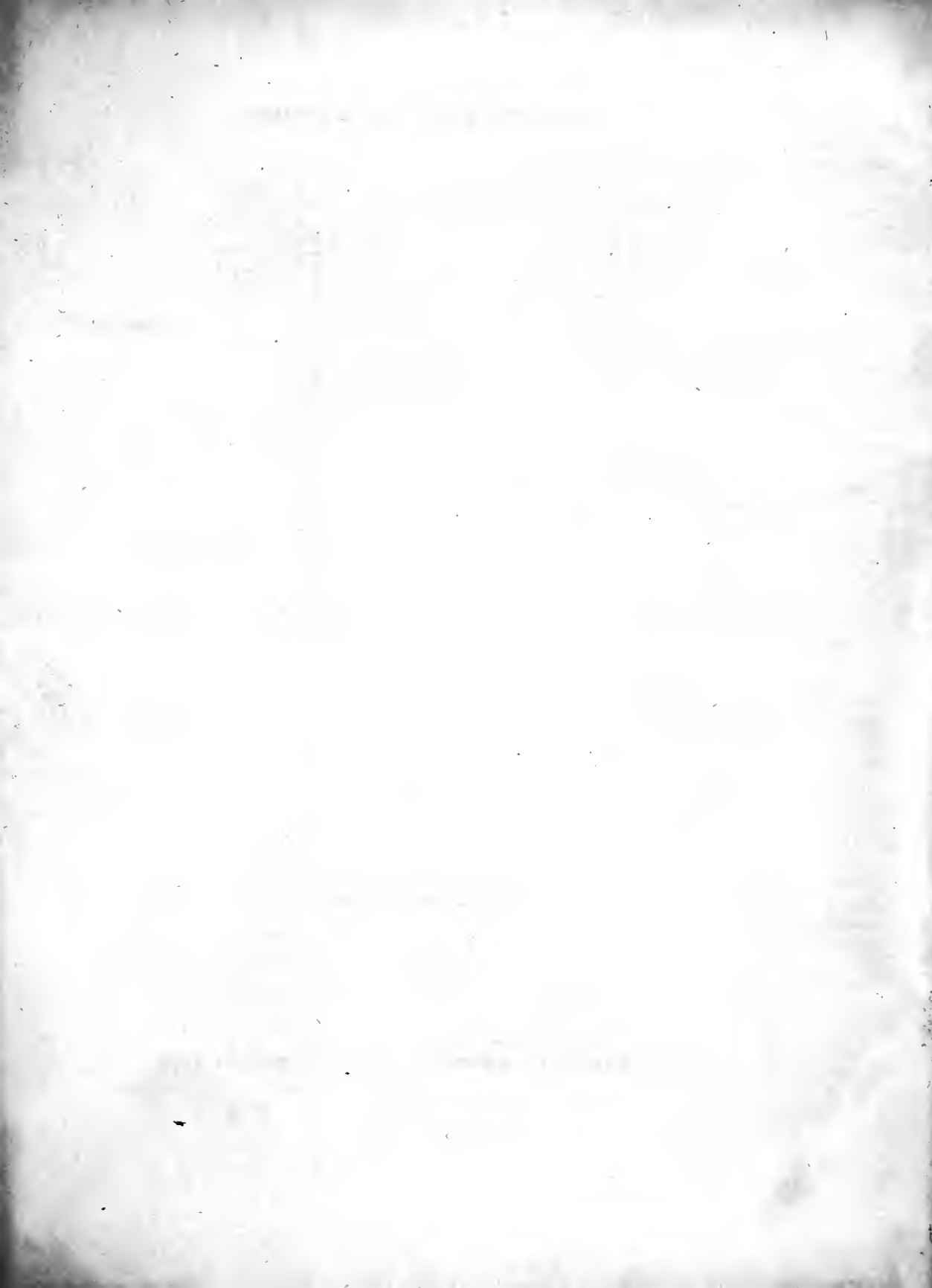
MEM:—Why do not the shareholders of the Anti-Mill Association meet and resolve not to be sucked by the corporate vampires? Why do they submit to this illegal imposition? The toll they pay is so much towards the persecution of their fellow townsmen.

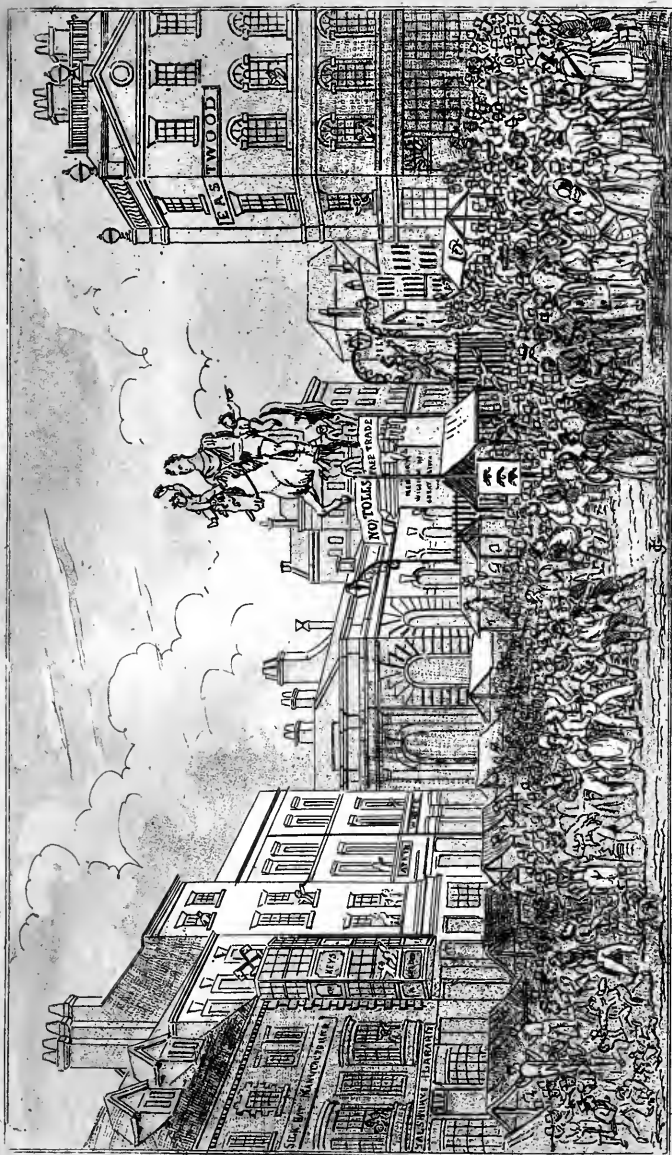
J. A.

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This SKETCH of the FIRST ATTEMPT to ABOLISH the MARKET TOLLS of KINGSTON upon HULL. 1st Nov 1831

is Respectfully Dedicated to the Reformers of Hull, by their faithful Servant

James Acland

1871

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